KEEP STRONG

August, 1980 *Voices of Chicago's Communities* $1.00

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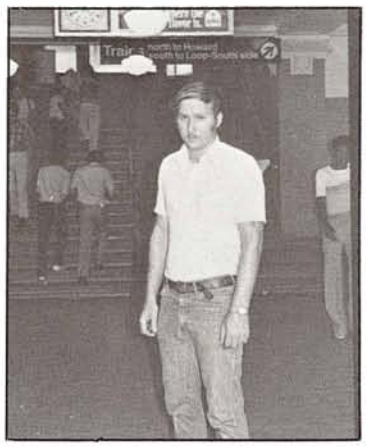
Children's Health Care
Chicago's Deepest Wound

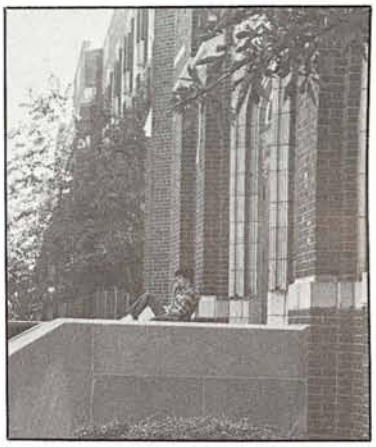
- Pullman Standard – Pulling Out
- Admundsen High School – The Odds Against Graduating
- South African Army Deserters Speak

THIS MONTH IN

3 Infant and child mortality continues to plague Chicago communities but emergency care for children is reachable to less and less people.



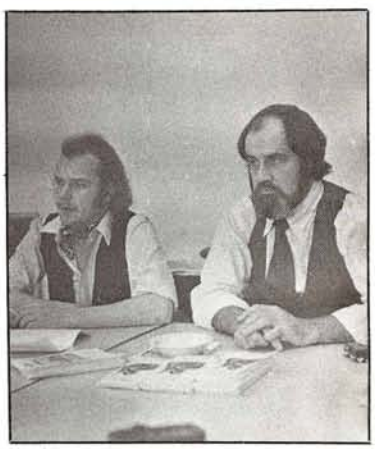
9 Two different men, one from Hamlin Park, the other from the south side, ran into the same three cops on the CTA, at opposite ends of the city. The second man was beaten to death, the first is lucky he's still alive.



15 The odds are three to one against a child in Chicago public schools actually graduating high school. An Amunsen High School senior explains why.

20 The nation's largest maker of railroad cars is closing down in Chicago and Hammond. A close up look at high finance causing unemployment.

32 A real-estate surge is moving families by the thousands from Baltimore. But the movement that elected rent control last November has a real good chance to grab the city's government in the next three years.



44 The White South African army loses more soldiers from desertion every day. Here, Mike Morgan, who left the army a few years ago, discusses the army, the reasons for deserting and the resistance war that is growing in South Africa.

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A Special Note from the Editor

On August 26, the residents of Cairo, Illinois will go to the polls to elect two people to the City Council.

The election itself is a historic first, coming after many years of struggle by the city's Black community. Since 1913, Cairo's City Council has been elected from the city at large, a system that has worked to keep Black political representation off the City Council during the 20th century.

On March 11, 1980, a consent decree was signed in federal court ordering the city to divide itself into representative districts. The court further ordered elections in November with a primary to be held on August 26.

Rev. Charles Koen, Executive Director of Cairo's United Front, is a candidate for Alderman in the city's newly established third ward. Ernest Morgan is the leading candidate in the second ward. Rev. Koen and the United Front have led the resistance to Cairo's domination by a small conservative clique of businessmen and politicians.

The August 26 election pits the community that he has led squarely against that same small "klan-ridden" group.

The stakes are high as 12 people in Cairo have already died this summer from the terrible heat in their substandard housing.

The campaign needs money. The election should receive national attention.

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EDITORIAL

THE BUTCHER'S PROMISE AND THE BIG LIE

The Republicans met in Detroit in July. They put their hard line politics in a Hollywood package and ran it through three major T.V. networks for four nights in a row.

Behind the slickness, behind Donny and Marie, a gigantic promise is waiting. The Butcher's promise is Ronald Reagan's answer to opposition. Opposition grows where seeds are planted by big American business.

The seeds are planted in the cities where tens of millions of Americans are confronted by a masterplan to drive them out.

The seeds are planted in the workforce as real unemployment reaches 25 percent and 50 percent in non-White communities.

The seeds are planted in schools across America as millions of young people graduate each year unable to read and write or drop out before they ever graduate.

The seeds are planted in shops and factories where 20,000 workers die on the job every year and hospital emergency rooms where 140 babies die every day.

Ships, planes, telephones, satellites, computers and greed carry the seeds across the world and plant them in communities where workers labor for $2 a day and protest is answered with fire from an M-16.

From all these seeds in all these places, opposition grows. The butcher's promise is Reagan's answer to opposition.

Reagan and the Republicans say that the weakness in the economy is falling productivity. The banks and corporations are taxed and regulated too much. The money they pay in taxes or have to spend to keep workers from dying would be better spent by the financiers and capitalists themselves.

America's weakness in the world, they say is that we don't back our "friends" up. Our friends, according to them, are the ruling White minority in South Africa and Namibia, the military junta in Chile and Bolivia and bloody dictatorships in dozens of countries on four continents.

The weakness they pretend to talk about is this country's shrinking power in the world and growing discontent at home.

They would turn our communities into concentration camps, pushing sterilization but outlawing abortions for poor women and drop the minimum wage so business could employ our children for $1.75 an hour. They would strip the cities of the few housing programs that are running now and cut off money for health care and education.

They would back up our "friends" by providing troops and planes and guns for direct military intervention against liberation struggles across the world and slaughter thousands in the process. In the name of "national defense" they would pay soldiers $20,000 a year and create a White armed elite to do their murderous business on other's soil.

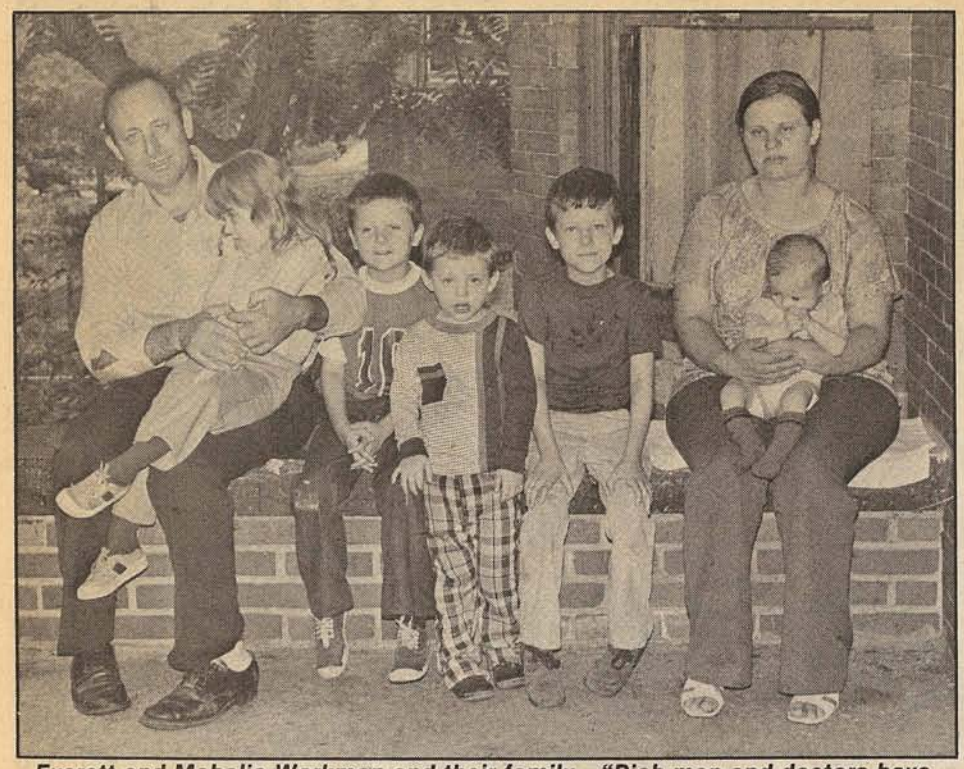
They plan to sweep to power in November on the strength of the "big lie," a lie they tell so many times and so effectively that people start to believe it. If they get in, they'll meet their opposition, not the Democrats but the real opposition, us and people like us in the rest of the world, with a butcher knife. □

Children's Health Care Chicago's Deepest Wound

Cold weather came early in the fall of 1976. For Everett and Mahalia Workman the chill will run deep for the rest of their lives. With tears of sadness and bitterness and anger swelling in his eyes Everett retells his story, a story that begins with any parent's concern for a sick child, a story that ends with unspeakable tragedy, a story that will continue occurring in a society where greed runs America's medical profession.

by Tim Hart

Dr. Siegel laughed out loud and said, 'We've got



Everett and Mahalia Workman and their family—"Rich men and doctors have really let poor people suffer for medical services."

Dolly Workman—crippled for the rest of her life by meningitis. Emergency room doctors ignored a mild fever and spinal infection—she nearly died.

November 14, 1976: "My daughter, Dolly, took sick. I told my wife to take her to Thorek Medical Center on Irving Park. They gave my daughter a prescription and told my wife to take her to an eye specialist the next morning to see why the infection was in her eyes so big and in both ears.

November 15: "A friend said our baby should see a specialist at Children's Memorial Hospital. They did take the infection out of her eyes in the emergency room and did admit her to the hospital. She lay in the hospital for four days and nights with heavy antibiotics in her.

November 19: "I told Dr. Cunningham, 'My love is getting sick and she's running a slight fever. She acts like she's got a bone broken in her body. I believe I should sign a consent to run some tests on my daughter because I believe something else is wrong. He said he was just worried about the eye and ear infection. They released her.

November 23: "We took Dolly back the 23rd. I went in and talked to Dr. Cunningham at his desk about her condition. I told him her condition was no better. She was running a slight fever. She was still vomiting. He still said he wasn't worried about that. He said the infection's all gone, she's going back home.'

November 27: "Dolly grew worse. I felt like I wanted to take her somewhere else. I felt like I was already getting poor medical service. I had just come back from West Virginia and I was flat broke. Some friends gave us good references that Children's Memorial Hospital was the best in town. I told my wife to take Dolly back to the doctor. Dr. Edgar gave her some antibiotics and sent her back home. Dolly's condition was so bad, I grew angry because they didn't admit her. I said, 'You gonna tell me those damn doctors didn't admit my daughter. She's sick enough to die. What in hell is going on down there.' I told a friend, 'You think I like to run her in and out in this sub-zero weather?'

December 2: "This time my wife went to see Dr. Siegel and Dr. Monroe. She says when Dr. Siegel saw her coming in he laughed and said, 'What are you coming down here everyday for?' She said, 'My baby's sick.' Dr. Siegel looked at her and said, 'There ain't nothing wrong with your daughter.' My wife told him she was still running a temperature, vomiting, and crying

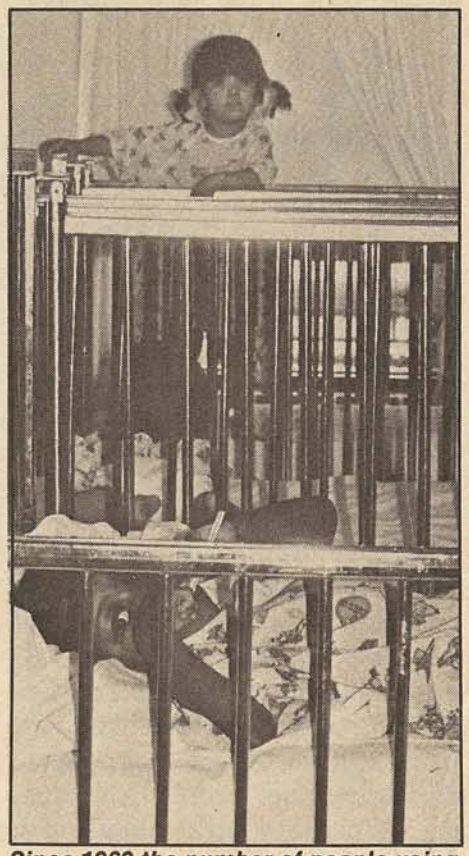
two dumb hillbillies in here.'

like she had a broken bone in her body and we had to bathe her down to keep the temperature from running away.

December 8: "I went back with my wife and saw Dr. Siegel and Dr. Monroe. At that time Dolly was so bad off I told Mahalia I didn't see much chance because she hadn't eaten in such a long time. I told Dr. Seigel, 'If something wasn't done for my daughter she was going to die.' There was no hope for her. That time she was so hot you couldn't hold her without sweating like a heating stove. She was burning up. Her eyes were sunk in. Her head was all red on top like a big red apple. By that time the infection had gone to her brain and was killing her. I sat in there and cried and I told that doctor, 'If somebody don't take care of this baby she'll die.' He laughed and asked me where me and my wife were from. I told him we're from West Virginia. He asked me what they called us and I said, 'Sir, they call us hillbillies.' Dr. Seigel laughed out loud and he said, 'We've got two dumb hillbillies in here and they don't know what to do.'

"I stood up and said, 'Doctor, what are you saying, do you realize who you are saying this to. There's no hope for this baby if nothing's done.' Dr. Monroe came in and asked if he could take the baby out of the room. They took her into another room and came back. They asked me, 'Who's been hitting this baby on the head?' I said 'Nobody.' They asked me who's been babysitting for us. I said, 'Nobody. We take care of her.' I said, 'Can't you get some papers and let me sign and you run some tests on my daughter.' He said, 'No, I've done all I can do.'

December 13: I went to a friend's and told them my daughter's dying. I said the baby's eyes are going back and forth like a seizure. The baby was gasping for breath like she was dying; her eyes were set back in her head. We wrapped the baby in a blanket and went down to Children's Memorial. We got there in the emergency room and a nurse was there. I said, 'Ma'am, she's dying if something ain't done.' She said, 'You don't have to tell me anything.



Since 1969 the number of people using emergency rooms has doubled—primary health care in Chicago's neighborhoods is inadequate or nonexistent.

I can see.' The baby was lying there having seizures and then it would go back like it was dead.

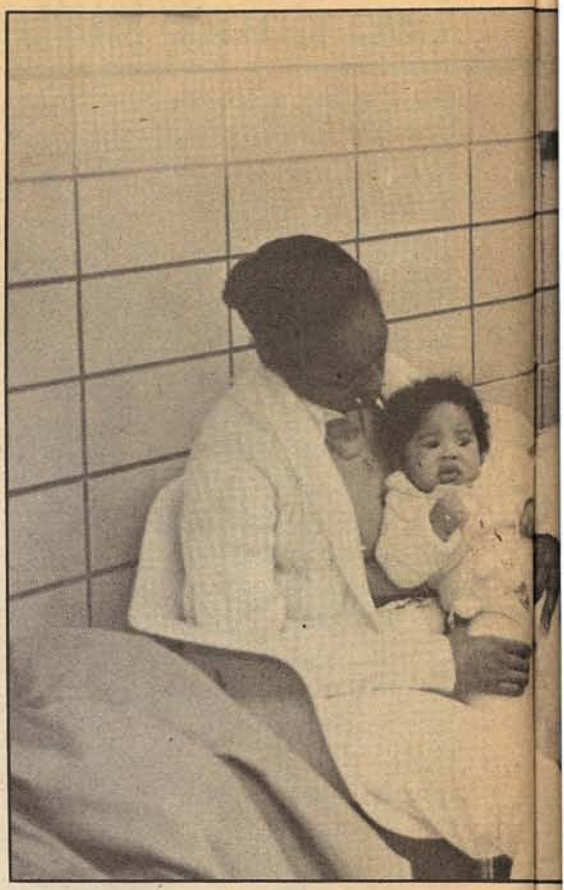
"They called a doctor who came and shined a flashlight in her eyes; there was nothing. He pinched the baby on her stomach, the baby didn't do nothing, just like she was dead. He got a consent paper for me to sign. He said, 'Do you know how close this baby is to death.' He went and did a spinal tap, when the fluid came out of her spine it was as yellow as this pencil, it was supposed to be as clear as an eyeglass.

"The nurse down the hallway said, 'I'll talk to the father.' The doctor looked at me and said, 'He ain't no damn father.' I said, 'Sir you don't know what we've done for this child and how many times we've been here and tried to get her in the hospital and were turned down. We've been through hell and high water – Just do something for her.' He said, 'Well I don't have time to argue with you,' and took off upstairs. He went to look at the doctor's charts to see what they'd done for her and how many times we'd been there.

"After a while two doctors called me into a room by myself to talk. They asked me if I had a lawyer, I said no. They asked me if I ever had sued anybody, I said no. They asked me if I was going to sue them, I said not that I know of, I'd have to make up my mind. I didn't know how to sue a cricket. They questioned me heavily.

"They told me she had a spinal infection, meningitis, and it already went to the brain. They told me Dolly would have permanent brain damage. My daughter's been through 12 major surgeries. She's had three different types of seizures and she's totally paralyzed on the right side from head to toe because this went on down there. I'm still mad about it today. There's parents down there right now going through the same thing my daughter went through in 1976 and it's been going on for years."

The Hospital Business Is Big Business



"The Workman's story is typical of Children's Memorial," says Debbie Wolen of the Visiting Nurses Association. "They're a specialty hospital. They don't like dealing with colds, fevers, diarrhea, and small emergencies. They're oriented towards severe problems like kidney failures, heart conditions and birth defects. The symptoms of meningitis are mild in the beginning, like Dolly Workman's fever, and the doctors just aren't interested.

"A big part of the problem is the doctors' egos. They get their big egos from being specialists. Most doctors are from middle class and upper class backgrounds. There's a huge cultural gap between them and their patients. They don't try to understand. A lot of times they'll send kids away without doing anything."

Since 1960, the number of people using emergency rooms has doubled. Over 1,200,000 will visit an emergency room in Chicago this year. While the national average of emergency room visits per thousand population is 366, 405 out of every 1,000 persons will visit an emergency room in Chicago—ten percent more.

For low-income people this growing trend is disastrous. First, emergency room use is up because primary health care in the poorer neighborhoods is inadequate or non-existent. While emergency room care is generally good many hospitals try to discourage poor people from using their facilities. On top of this, emergency health care is much more expensive because of the high level of technology and skilled labor that runs the intensive care units. Anyway you look at it, the poor get the shaft from the beginning and end up paying more for the proper treatment they should have a right to.

The Health Systems Agency, a city and federal planning commission, in a recent report which was not widely publicized, stated, "Because there is a sizeable indigent (poor) and near-poor population in Chicago, a number of hospitals are reluctant to absorb the costs of patients who seek care."

Although hospitals are required by law to treat all emergency cases, many will go out of their way to discourage poor people from coming. "While they might admit you to the emergency room," cautions Wolen, "the treatment many receive is so inadequate it's dangerous. Weiss and Edgewater don't like poor people. Weiss turns people away and does minimal things for them. A young woman I know went there when she was drowsy and going into a diabetic coma. At Weiss they said she was drunk, gave her mouthwash, and sent her away. Luckily, she made it to another hospital before she went unconscious and died."

A lot of hospitals will tell people they don't have the equipment or staff to treat some emergencies. Others, like Grant have been known to report emergencies to the Department of Children and Family Services as neglect or abuse cases and then refuse to treat them the next time they come in. For a lot of "near-poor" families, a visit to the hospital will mean constant harassment by debt collection agencies.

According to a report by the League of Women Voters in 1978, "Financial considerations have influenced the admissions policies of voluntary (private) hospitals. When providing services to the indigent

"When providing services, they have been

they have been primarily concerned with covering financial losses."

Yet, after public health clinics close in the afternoon most people have nowhere to go to receive medical care. The city's Public Health Department advises people to use hospital emergency rooms after hours as do many doctors when they are unavailable on weekends. The emergency rooms fill up with many people with non-emergency problems which causes the waiting times of everybody to be longer.

The problem with American emergency rooms, however, goes much deeper than people having nowhere to go after 5 p.m. The problem lies with a lack of quality preventative medicine. Powerful national hospital organizations and medical doctors' associations are not interested in preventative medicine. A constant supply of sick people is in their best economic interests. They realize full well that a healthy population would hurt business.

The hospital business is, indeed, Big Business. Forty percent of total U.S. health care is spent on short-term (less than 30 days) hospitalization. In 1977, Chicago hospitals spent $1.4 billion to provide acute care, an astonishing $446 for every Chicagoan. This figure rose over 250 percent since 1970.

"The whole medical profession should be turned upside down," says Wolen. "They pay lip service to preventative medicine, but they want to make sure that all their hospital beds are filled up. That's the way they make their money off of sick people, people with diseases, and people with emergencies."

"The medical profession has always been disease-oriented" agrees Kathryn Zerzan a nurse-practitioner in the emergency room at Cook County Hospital. "For awhile there was a big stink about getting more preventative orientation but we've lost that. We don't even hear about it that much anymore. Instead we have other specialties like sports medicine and rare disease specialties. It's like cancer. All the money goes into research to find a cure. When everybody knows that the causes are in the environment. Everybody sees that. Instead of trying to prevent the causes they go pouring away money to find a cure. It's easier to spend the money that way than getting people to clean up the workplaces, dirty city air and polluted water."

Rosa Licea, a nurse at the University of Illinois' Eye, Ear and Nose infirmary agrees, "Doctors don't tell patients the things they need to know after surgery to take care of themselves. That way they develop complications and infections and they have to keep coming back."

Statistics confirm that preventative health care is at unacceptably low levels in Chicago. Children, unfortunately, suffer the deepest wounds.

Chicago's infant mortality rate (IMR), children that die before reaching one year of age, is 51.8 per cent higher than the national average. Nationally, 14.1 in 1,000 will die before the age of one while in Chicago 21.4 will die.

Particulary hard hit are Chicago's Black and Latino neighborhoods where the IMR soars at 27.7 per 1,000. Twenty-eight out of 46 minority communities in Chicago

primarily concerned with covering financial losses."

have an IMR above 30.0 deaths per 1,000 births. Forty out of the 46 neighborhoods are above 25. According to the Health Systems Agency (HSA) these statistics reflect badly on the quality of primary and pre-natal care available to Chicago's low-income people. The neighborhoods affected are predominantly poor White, Black and Latino and closely correlate with areas HSA has designated as "medically underserved."

Another frightening statistic is the low disease immunization levels for Chicago's school children. HSA is advocating a "massive campaign directed at doctors, health providers, school personnel and parents concerning the dangerously low levels of immunization in the city of Chicago. No public or Catholic school has immunized 90 per cent of its students, despite state laws which do not allow students to attend class without immunization shots. In the poor and minority communities, immunization levels drop even further. In School District 23, Kenwood-Oakland, only 20 per cent of the students are immunized against polio. Warnings issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health state "individual school districts are in danger of experiencing epidemics in one or more disease category if the level of protection is less that 90 per cent. (See Table).

HSA further reports, "it costs 1/50th as much to prevent measles by raising immunization levels to 100 per cent than it would be to pay the costs of continuing the outbreaks of measles at their present levels."

The report concludes, "Chicago Neighborhood Health Centers and out-patient clinics are not monitoring the immunization status of children they are seeing. These care centers see thousands of low-income families each year and yet the lowest immunization levels are in the poorest neighborhoods."

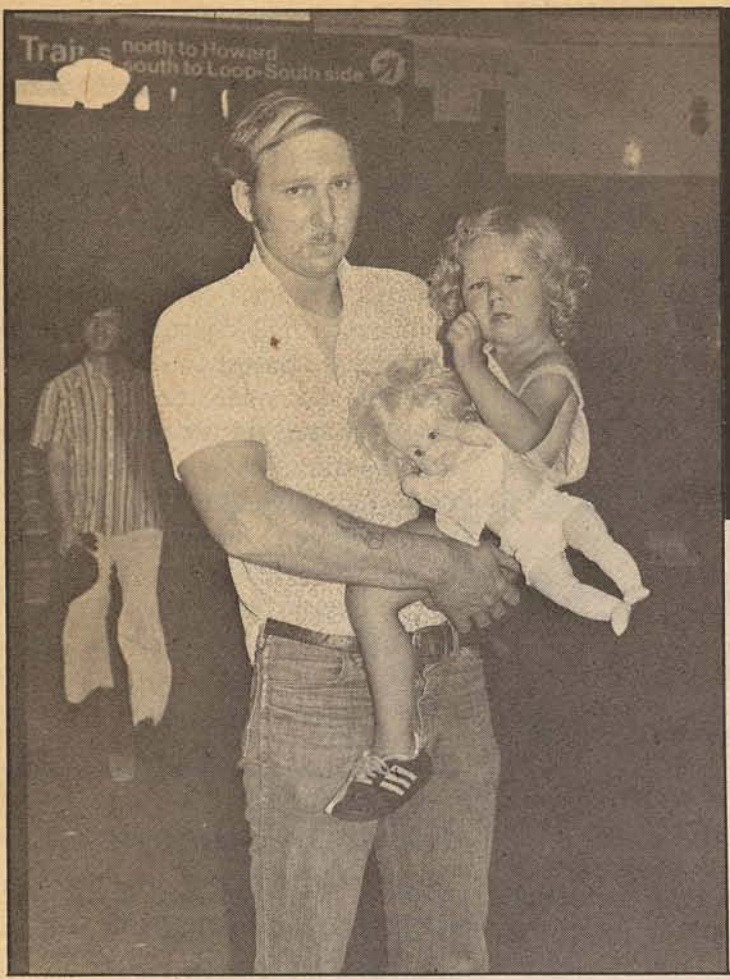
"It ain't only my child I'd like to help," says Everett Workman. "I'd like to use my child lying right there in bed, forever a cripple for the rest of her life, not even knowing she's mentally handicapped, as an example."

He continues without hesitating, "Our American society has sold the poor class of people right down the road and we don't have no grounds to fight on. They don't care if we live or die. I think that people in this country should wake up from sleep in this dark age and realize how the rich men and doctors have really let the poor class of people suffer for medical services. This is the richest country in the world and the government is just sitting back and they don't care nothing about it."

Under federal regulations the Hill-Burton Act requires that all hospitals receiving funds from the government for modernization and new construction must provide a certain amount of free service for poor people. While the American Hospitals Association is lobbying strongly in Washington against the Hill-Burton Act, the words of Everett Workman should haunt us all. □

What To Do What To Expect In An Emergency Room

1. **Remember all emergency rooms are required by law to provide initial first aid and emergency care regardless of income or ability to pay. If they don't have the specialized facilities to treat (burn unit or spinal injuries) they should arrange ambulance service to a hospital that does.**
2. **Don't take anything for granted in an emergency room. The quality can change greatly with staff changes or new financial conditions.**
3. **Don't be alarmed if your son or daughter is seen by a nurse-practitioner or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Most doctors can't pass the test that certified EMT's take.**
4. **Stay with your child by all means. Don't let him or her out of your sight. Things can happen behind your back.**
5. **If your child has a special ailment like asthma or cystic fibrosis don't hesitate to tell the emergency room staff what is wrong. It can save them a lot of time trying to diagnose the problem.**
6. **Remember patients with the most serious injuries will be seen first, regardless of who was in line first.**
7. **If you think your child is not being treated adequately or quickly enough, raise some racket. Get rowdy and threaten to sue. Patients have died waiting in emergency rooms because they didn't speak up. A threatened lawsuit means a lot of money, something hospital administrators understand well.**



KILLER COPS CHARGED WITH MURDER

"They never even said they were police"

by Tom Johnson

CHICAGO—57 year old Richard Ramey was smoking a cigarette while riding the Jackson Park El, near 35th St. one evening in early July. Three mass transit unit police arrested him for smoking. They claimed the man resisted so they beat him. Officers Fred Christiano, Louis Klisz and Fred Earullo beat Mr. Ramey so badly that both his ankles and his neck were broken. He died of "blunt trauma" in Mercy hospital five hours after the beating according to the Cook County Medical examiner. The coroner indicated that Mr. Ramey was beaten with fists or some other blunt instrument. The three policemen have been suspended from the department and an indictment for murder has been returned by the Cook County Grand Jury.

"Yeh he was ok, the old man was," said one neighbor who lived a few doors up from Mr. Ramey's beat-up old house on the 5800 block of South Emerald Ave. "He wouldn't bother anybody too much, except for his grass cutting and stuff like that. He had his own ways, but he never made any trouble. Not around here anyhow. Shoot, he was just an old man who had bad ankles and walked with a limp.

"It's kinda funny that some crazy old man who nobody cared about becomes famous like that, you know. The TV's been down here—Channel 2 and 5 and all of 'em. And the papers. And now you. And he's too dead to care. Kinda funny, ain't it?"

Ordinance Sect. 193-7-10 of the city of Chicago forbids cigarette smoking on CTA trains and buses. The penalty if apprehended and convicted is a $50 fine.

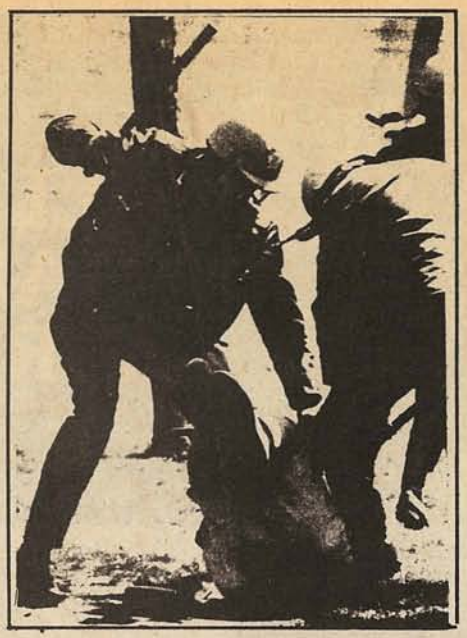
Richard Seager did not know of Richard Ramey before he was murdered. Not until he read about the beating in the papers and saw reports on the TV news. Until Mr. Ramey was murdered, Seager did not have a reason to know him. The twenty-nine year old northwest side truck driver lives in a different world than Mr. Ramey did. His rented home on North Leavitt has been recently re-sided and the yard is a good place for his three year-old daughter to play. The Hamlin Park resident and his wife Nancy are expecting another child soon. Seager, some people would say, is living on the American Dream. But the dream has turned to a nightmare played on the nightly news.

The nightmare came home to Seager when he read and heard about Mr. Ramey's death. Last April, Seager and his wife were walking through the Wilson Ave. El stop when he called out hello to a woman that he recognized working at the currency exchange. Seager is

a large man and his voice boomed through the concrete El stop.

"I heard somebody say, 'Shut your f---ing mouth.' I looked around and this guy was looking dead at me. I said, 'Are you talking to me?' And he said, 'Yeah, I'm talking to you!'

"It was just like somebody calling me off the street or something. I said, 'Come over here and call me that.' He said, 'No, you come over here!' He never told me he was a cop. I knew he was a cop afterwards. What happened was he didn't identify himself. I was already mad. We got into a pushing match. That's all it really was 'cause I didn't punch him. He had a beard and was wearing grubby clothes." The bearded man was joined by two others in a few seconds. While the second two held Seager, the first man hit him.



Seager continues, "This guy hit me 10 or 15 times with a billy club after I was on the floor and they were holding me down."

Seager was "lucky". He received 17 stitches which were needed to close numerous head wounds after the beating. He was given a year of supervision after three charges were reduced to one—resisting arrest. "Yeah, you know it's frustrating. Resisting arrest—they never said what I was arrested for in the first place. They never even said they were police," Seager explained to KEEP STRONG.

So Seager went down to the Office of Professional Standards—the police agency that is supposed to investigate brutality complaints. They took pictures of his head wounds and he filed a report. He expected that the police would come out and investigate further. They did not. In fact, the police department did nothing.

Then, seven weeks later, three Mass Transit Unit police beat Richard Ramey until he died. They are Officers Fred Christiano, Louis Klisz and Fred Earullo. The same men who had beaten Seager in April.

"He's [Christiano] playing games with people you know. I know what happened to that guy [Ramey]. This guy is sitting on the El smoking a cigarette and another guy [the cop] comes over. And I'll bet I can almost tell you what happened. He comes over. He's got a beard. He's got grubby clothes on. What would you do if you were sitting on the El smoking a cigarette and somebody looking like that came over and told you to put it out? I know he didn't identify himself—I'll bet you he didn't. Some old bum comes up and tells me what to do; I'm going to tell him where to go. If he would have been in uniform; you don't want trouble, you would have said, 'yessir officer!' and put it right out."

The decoy squad of the Chicago Police Department's Mass Transit Unit is a group without a purpose in search of enough collars to make their quota. The courage of a man like Richard Seager to step forward and confront police power is only overshadowed by his most important question, "Why do they have a decoy unit to go after ordinary people? Why aren't they chasing rapists and murderers?"

The echo is heard across the city as people, organizations and even some police now ask "why?" Why does there need to be a police decoy unit to beat people for smoking and talking loud. Why does the police department have the right to send men out, dressed as derelicts, when they're not trying to trap a specific offender sought for a series of related crimes. Why does the Chicago Police Department continue to stand like an army above the people. And it will until it is confronted by angry, organized communities. Until then, all that stands between you and a stomping at the hands of the Chicago police, is the nerve of people like Richard Seager and the noisy pressure they help us to keep on the police. □

Why do they have a decoy unit to go after ordinary people? Why aren't they chasing rapists and murderers?

The decoy squad is a group without a purpose in search of enough collars to make their quota.

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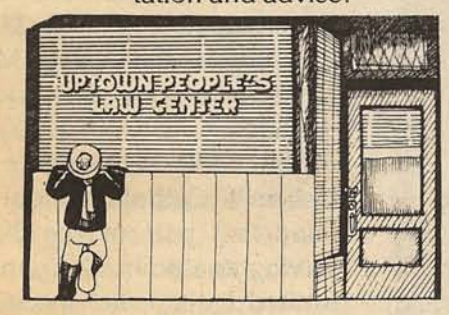

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PARENT'S VOICE

Southside Parents Examine Chicago's Schools

Clockwise from top: Mrs. Miller, Graham School and Mrs. Shew.

CHICAGO—The right of parents to evaluate their children's schools has grown in importance in this city since last November. It was then that the large banks refused to extend credit to the Board of Education and the Chicago public schools were in the hands of private financiers.

As parents across the city get ready for school opening in September their main question is becoming, "What are the actual strengths and weaknesses of the public school system? What are the factors that cause so many children to lose interest so quickly?"

These questions have surfaced as parents have realized that the powerful movement to oppose the School Finance Authority, (five bankers and businessmen who direct public education in Chicago) will unite on a program for education in the public schools.

The discussion reprinted below looks at Graham elementary school (grades 1-8) at 43rd and Emerald. Mrs. Miller took her children out of Graham after her son finished second grade there. She placed them in St. Gabriel's Catholic school, two blocks from Graham, which she attended as a child. Both Mrs. Constance Shue and Mrs. Pat Clemons have children at Graham elementary.

Mrs. Miller's experience with St. Gabriel's Catholic school was an important part of the discussion, serving as a point of comparison in understanding the specific weaknesses in the public elementary school.

Mrs. Miller: "David spent kindergarten, first and second grade over at Graham school and his marks were average and above average. At

the finish of David's second year I decided to transfer my three children over to the Catholic school. I had an interview with each teacher and I asked how my children were doing—according to their report cards they were doing fine. David's teacher told me that he was an exceptional student, that he could compete with any other second grader.

"Well when the kids go over to the Catholic school they are asked to take an entrance exam and evaluate the child. David did so bad on the entrance exam—he was almost a full year behind any of the second graders finishing the term in June and they explained to me that it would probably be best for David if he would repeat the second grade. I talked to the principal and because David is such a large child I asked if he could be privately tutored and take a chance and see how he did the first eight weeks of school until the first report card. I also talked to the nun at the school and she was more than willing to explain what he needed and to help him after school, to send home extra work. His biggest problem was in math and reading and they do have a special reading program and they assigned him to it. He received special reading twice a day and two to three hours extra work in the day. He improved and in the fifth grade he made the honor roll."

Mrs. Shew: "Look at my son. The same kids are in the same class starting in the first grade. By the fifth all these same kids are all two levels behind in reading. And I went up there and said evidently one of your teachers is working at a slower pace. They said, 'Oh, no.' I said, how can you tell me. This kid, now I know he's been in this same room since first grade. They're all two levels behind. That couldn't just happen to all these kids. One of the teachers had been working at a slower pace, and got all these kids behind."

Mrs. Miller: "Up at Graham a kid is categorized in the first grade and that's the way he is in the eighth grade. They don't give a child a chance for individual advancement. They do the same work for two years and then you have to go up there and scream for them to be tested to go to another book."

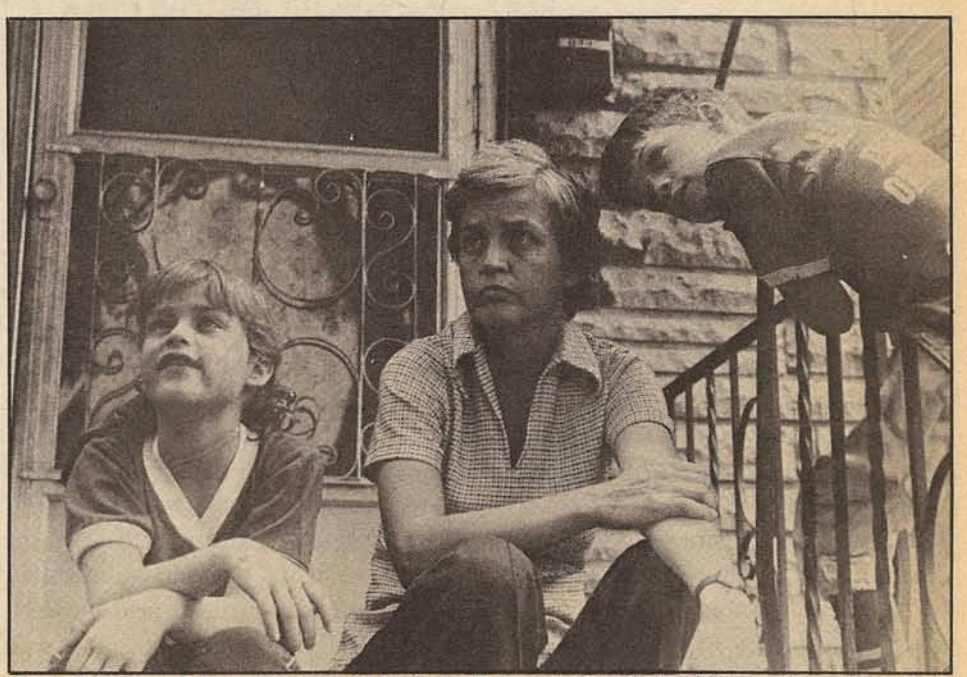
Mrs. Shew: "They all work at one level, unless you go up there and say, 'I think he's ready for a higher level.' They won't advance him like an individual. They wait for the whole room to be ready to be tested to go on."

Mrs. Clemons: "Then they tell you it's the parent's fault. No. It can't be that every kid in the room has parents that don't care."

Mrs. Shew: "There are kids that need help and are not getting it. There are kids excelling in stuff and they have nowhere to go. They get bored to death."

Mrs. Miller: "A kid is not categorized in Catholic school at first grade the way they are in public school. They are put on a level. They find out what a child knows and work from there. I think there is a closer relationship between the teachers at Catholic school. There seems to be more dedication if a child has a problem. If a child doesn't do his homework, they call you up. Your child is required to do homework. They get more homework than over at Graham. At the public school the homework seems to be more of a review of what they had that day. They get homework three or four nights a week but never more than 20 minutes a night. If it took them 20 minutes to do their homework, that was considered a lot. At the Catholic school they are required to do book reports. There were never book reports at Graham."

Mrs. Shew: "Half the eighth graders can't even read on a third grade level. It's unbelievable. When they get to be 15 years old they have to graduate no matter what their grades are. My older son and his friend have been together since kindergarten. They are all supposed to graduate next year. Nine kids in his class were held back. Eleven from



Mrs. Miller and her children. "I just don't like to pay twice for quality education the kids should be getting in the first place."

another seventh grade class were held back. That's too many.

"When Jimmy was in the second grade I told them, 'Why don't you keep him back?' They said, 'We're not allowed to keep kids back. It's against the law, we cannot fail him.' Now, when he got older, that's when they failed him. When he was in the sixth grade."

Mrs. Miller: "In the last five years I think the school system has really gone down. My three older kids are doing fine. It's the younger one that's behind. Something must have happened to the school system. He has a hearing loss, but it's at a high frequency. The doctor told me it shouldn't interfere with his school work at all. But he was behind and I couldn't get him into any tutorial program because there is such a waiting list for any kind of tutoring, reading, math, whatever. You can get a private tutor if you want to pay $10 a week for reading and $10 a week for math. I finally got him into a reading program where they helped him for an hour and a half a week. I figure it's better than nothing.

It's bad enough when they don't want to go to high school, but when they don't want to go to first grade, that's really bad.

"I believe, over in the Catholic school, your biggest percentage of children being held back, you'll find in the first grade. And they'll come out and tell you, 'It's not because your child is dumb. It's because they were too immature to grasp what was being taught this year. There's no sense in sending them on to the second grade if they can't grasp the first grade work.' "

Mrs. Shew: "It sounds like they let you know about everything. If there's a problem with anything you get a call and you go up to school."

Mrs. Miller: "If they would just let the parents know how the child is doing in public school. Mrs. Shew was saying her son was having trouble and she didn't even realize it. Now I'm sure if she had been told she could have helped him."

Mrs. Shew: "I only knew what was on his report card. I only talked to his teacher once at open house. That was it. Now I have a son going into first grade. He has a hard time with his teacher. She had no interest in the kids at all. Gee, it's bad enough when they don't want to go to high school, but when they don't want to go to first grade, that's really bad."

Mrs. Miller: "Discipline and concern for the individual child, I think would be the two biggest points. We have a situation (at St. Gabriel's) where the teachers care, the principal cares, the parents care. And when you get all your main factors, you teach a child to care."

Mrs. Shew: "When the bell rings, you sit down and open the book to such and such a page and you get started. In public school it takes two hours to settle them down before you can start. They have to wait outside 15-20 minutes before they open the door for them."

Mrs. Clemons: "My son had a substitute for the last three months. They do have some good teachers but they don't seem to last long. There was a special reading teacher that had a program where a parent would come in at least one hour a day and help the kids. He cared. My kids came up three years in that one year. The teacher's gone now."

Mrs. Shew: "Jimmy had a fight with one of his teachers. She called the whole class stupid and he said, 'Don't tell me that,' and she said 'Everyone in your class is going to be standing in the unemployment office. You'll never have work.' Jimmy told her, 'I don't know about the rest of them, but I'm not going to be standing around any unemployment office.' And she was going to call me to school because he talked back to to her."

I can tell you I think I got my kids out of there right on time, I don't think there'll be any lasting scars.

Mrs. Shew: "We really don't know much about what is going on in these schools. What we hear from the kids when they come home is somebody threw an airplane in the teacher's hair. That's all they're going to tell us. This boy is in trouble all the time."

Mrs. Miller: "If something like that happens at St. Gabriel's both mother and father go to school the next day. The child is not allowed back until both parents come in."

Mrs. Clemons: "Over here at Graham it's the opposite. They're expelled. Maybe for a week. They're happy about it."

Mrs. Miller: "I can tell you I think I got my kids out of there right on time, I don't think there'll be any lasting scars."

Mrs. Clemons: "I just feel that instead of the cuts, I haven't heard anybody open their mouths about making money. Where the money goes I have no idea. Carson Pirie Scott rents a building from the Board of Education for $1,000 a year. That's ridiculous. They can sure afford to pay a lot more than that."

Mrs. Miller: "I just don't like to pay twice for quality education the kids should be getting in the first place. I'm paying double. It's totally unfair and it's unfair to the children who can't get out of the public school. They're stuck."□

AGAINST THE ODDS
a senior at amundsen high school

CHICAGO—The odds are now three to one against a child in the Chicago public school system actually graduating from high school in this city.

A comparison of recent reports by the Chicago Board of Education and a joint report by the Better Government Association (BGA)—Chicago Reporter shows that three out of every four children presently enrolled in grades one through eight will either not make it to high school, not make it through high school, or be handed a piece of paper when they are too old to stay in high school. (See dropout tally sheet.)

The story of one Amundsen High School junior confounding the odds makers (and the Board of Education planners), struggling to pull himself through high school, explains why the odds are set so high against Chicago's children.

"I don't know what kids really want to do. See, with the draft coming and it's getting close to the time when they have to register, some are just joining. A lot really. Recruiters come out to school and promise you things that aren't true. Like job training. My friend's brother wants to get out.

"You have to take U.S. history. They say you have to know it to pass the constitution test (100 questions like how old was Herbert Hoover.) And you have to pass the constitution test to graduate. I already took the test and passed it last November. But I flunked history this year. The school says I have to take history over and take the test again. They only have summer school for seniors that didn't graduate. It'll cost me $100 for a private course to prepare for a test I al-

Against The Odds

The odds are more than 50-50 against ninth graders graduating from high school in Chicago.

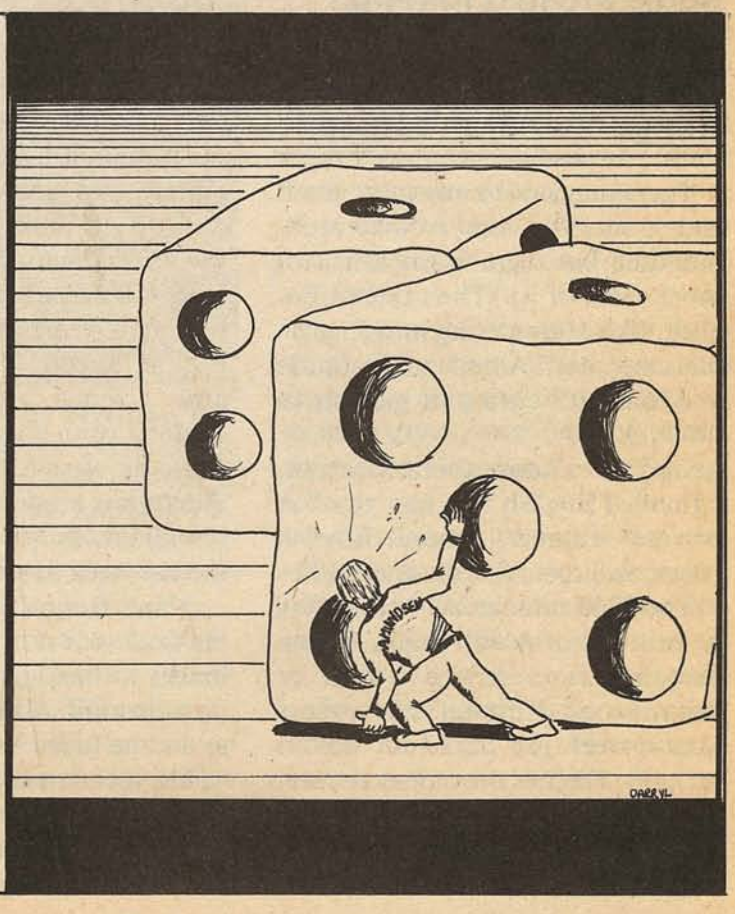
- Of the 45,965 students who entered the ninth grade in 1975, only 20,846 (45 percent) graduated in 1979.

The odds are two to one against first-to-eighth graders graduating from high school.

- 21,000 graduating eighth graders did not enter high school in 1978-1979.
- 21,000 will graduate, 46,000 will not.

The odds are three to one against all Chicago students actually graduating from high school in Chicago.

- 20 percent of Chicago's high school graduates can hardly read or write and only receive a diploma when they are too old to stay in school.
- 16,500 will actually graduate, 50,200 will not make it to high school, or not make it through high school, or come out of high school without fundamental reading and writing skills.



ready passed."

This man will be a senior at Amundsen High School this September. He's come out of 11 years of public school with an understanding of what he wants to do and what he needs to do it. Alan (not his real name) has had a sharp interest in mathematics and science since elementary school. All the way through his second year (10th grade), he was getting mostly A's and some B's in math and science. But the Board of Education only requires a total of three years of math and science. After his second year, there wasn't time left for him to take any more math or science.

"Right now I want to be a computer technologist. When I graduate high school I'm going to Control Data Institute. Probably a year after I start, I'll be qualified for a job, depending on what I want to do."

With the draft coming some are just joining. Recruiters come out to school and promise things that aren't true.

There may not be any more math and science for Alan to take at Amundsen but there is English, two more years of it; "Then there's English. You start getting into English literature and American literature and to me it's boring. It puts me to sleep. I mean how many jobs require you to know about Macbeth. I flunked English this year too." A private summer school English course will cost Alan another $100.

The $200 summer school tax will be paid out of Alan's wages. He's a part-time food service worker at Ravenswood Hospital. His twenty hour-a-week job pays four dollars an hour. He uses the money to meet his own expenses and help his mother pay the bills on their northside home. Last fall he was offered a supervisor's job, for more pay, but Alan and his mother decided against it in order not to take time from school work.

Amundsen High School — The odds are 4 to 1 against a student graduating.

Alan's mother saw the weakness in the entire public school system first hand when she received a note from Amundsen a few weeks before school was over this year, "The notice I got from the school said he was failing math and science. Well, I knew that he got A's and B's his first two years in those subjects. But he already finished his math and science requirement. He couldn't have been failing them because he wasn't taking them. Why didn't they know that? I didn't find out about history and English until the last week of school."

Alan's troubles as he approaches his final year don't end with failing marks in history and English. His part-time job dissatisfied his teacher and he failed that course as well. "This year I took ICE—Industrial Coordination Education. You get one credit for class work and one credit for working. The teacher said that your test grades, homework and attendance were about 65 percent of your grade. Attitude is averaged in somewhere. Last semester the teacher told me to try to get a job in the print shop at the hospital. I guess he didn't think the food service was relevant to the course or something. I applied for a job in the print shop, but there's a big waiting list so I kept my other job. This semester I flunked ICE. I got a D on my test and only missed a few days of school. I tried to switch my job like he told me and I know the people at the hospital like my work. I'm not really sure why I flunked."

Finally, if the story sounds one-sided, that's because only one side counts. Alan's last words offer an experienced view on why the odds are so great against high school graduation in Chicago. "Some kids get bored, maybe others don't care. There are a lot of kids to deal with and some of them just get pushed aside. They [the kids] decide it's not worth it."□

Pressure Builds Under Chicago's Power Elite

Aldermen Agree to Investigate E.D.C.

CHICAGO—Chicago's Economic Development Commission was the subject, once again, at a public hearing on July 7.

The possible loss of 20,000 jobs from Chicago in 1980 is bringing community groups and labor activists into a heated confrontation with the banking and corporate elite that is secretly making economic policies for Chicago.

The hearing, called by the Employment Action Coalition, was a followup to a May 20 meeting about the future of 300 Elgin Watch workers who lost their jobs when Elgin moved to Miami. Three aldermen—Danny Davis (29), Clifford Kelley (20) and Lawrence Bloom (5)—attended the hearing. Three others—Tyrone McFolling, Eugene Sawyer and Martin Oberman—sent representatives.

Helen Shiller, organizer for the Coalition, outlined the purpose of the second meeting and the main points in the growing indictment against the Economic Development Commission.

"This public hearing tonight is a followup meeting to one held on May 20 on behalf of people working at Elgin Watch, a company which employed approximately 400 people who lost their jobs as a result of the company's move to Miami, Florida at the end of June. Between 250 and 350 people lost their jobs, were displaced from their jobs, as a result of that move.

"The purpose of that meeting was to explore the possibilities for job training and job placement programs, coordinated for the people who lost their jobs at Elgin Watch, given the fact that they represented a relatively small number of people in the midst of a sea of thousands and thousands of people facing the same situation.

"Our purpose is to bring to the City Council the concerns of individuals directly touched with the economic realities of Chicago today." ***– Helen Shiller***

"That meeting, which in and of itself was not successful in that it did not ensure that there was a development of the jobs so badly needed by the people at Elgin, did at least raise the issue of concern which we are addressing here today: The need to target public attention on those public bodies responsible for dealing with the most important question in the city today, the growing unemployment.

"In December, 1975, the City Council first voted to create the Economic Development Commission which was to replace the Mayor's Committee on Economic and Cultural Development. The new Commission was to have powers that the Mayor's Committee before never had—powers such as issuing industrial revenue bonds, to buy property, etc.; all of these of course with the approval of the City Council.

"Our purpose tonight is to bring to the City Council members and their representatives the concerns of individuals directly touched with the economic realities of Chicago today.

"It's common to find in the minutes of the Commission, occasions when individuals on the Commission were not present, but other individuals from the same corporate entity were, and they officially voted in place of the commissioners.

"The significance of that is that while individuals were appointed to the Economic Development Com-

"The city of Chicago has a masterplan and that is simply the systematic removal of Black, Latin and poor people out of the city." ***- Marion Stamps***

mission and approved by the City Council, they clearly represented a corporate point of view, and sat on the EDC as a particular corporate representative, not as an individual.

"We have an elite group of people who represent the presidents, vice-presidents and directors of the largest banks, real estate companies, utility companies and corporations in the city of Chicago, sitting on a public body to decide the priorities and policies for establishing programs to retain and create jobs in the city of Chicago. They are not representative of the majority of people who live and work in Chicago. They are not representative of minorities. They are not representative of the unemployed. But they are representative of the movers and shakers, the deal makers, the power behind the scenes."

Early in the hearing, testimony was given by Marion Stamps, program director of the Tranquility Memorial Community Center in the near north Cabrini Green area. Ms. Stamps blasted the "deal" between the city and Montgomery Ward that has targeted Cabrini Green for complete redevelopment.

"The city of Chicago has a masterplan and that masterplan is simply the systematic removal of Black, Latin and poor people out of the central area of the city, and the quickest way to do that is to cut the job market. And that is what is happening.

"This Commission was deliberately set up to oversee for the city of Chicago, to develop a plan, to, on the one hand bring in federal money to the city, supposedly to be used for us, and on the other hand, use that same federal money to make sure that we didn't get it; to redevelop the city of Chicago and provide jobs for those folks they expect to be here in the next five to ten years. The only thing that has happened in their plan is that their projection in terms of time has stepped up. Instead of five to ten years, it has escalated to three or four years. And those of us who live in the communities see that on a day to day basis.

"I am sure that most of you are aware that there is a crisis in our community that has been identified through the media, etc. as a gang war. Let me set the record straight. The struggle in Cabrini Green is not about a gang war. The struggle in Cabrini Green is about who is going to control the land. That's all it is.

"Montgomery Ward five and a half years ago, built a new corporate office right across the street from the Cabrini Green Housing Development. Three months ago Montgomery Ward informed people in the community that they were closing down their retail store.

"We also found out that what Montgomery Ward is doing is that those employees who will lose their jobs, they have set up a training program to train them how to go and fill out an application for another job. They are encouraging those folks to find jobs before they even get fired from Montgomery Ward and that way Montgomery Ward will not have to pay severance pay to those workers.

"Then, the site of the retail store that is being closed down is part of the Chicago 21 Plan. The Chicago 21 Plan calls for redevelopment of the Chicago River along Goose Island which is located right there to the near north side of the Cabrini Green area.

"So, Montgomery Ward will again get money. They will save money on the severance pay by not firing the people. They will save money by selling the land that

"What seems to me is happening is that the Economic Development Commission has created a climate favorable to the people who sit on the Commission." ***– Arturo Vasquez***

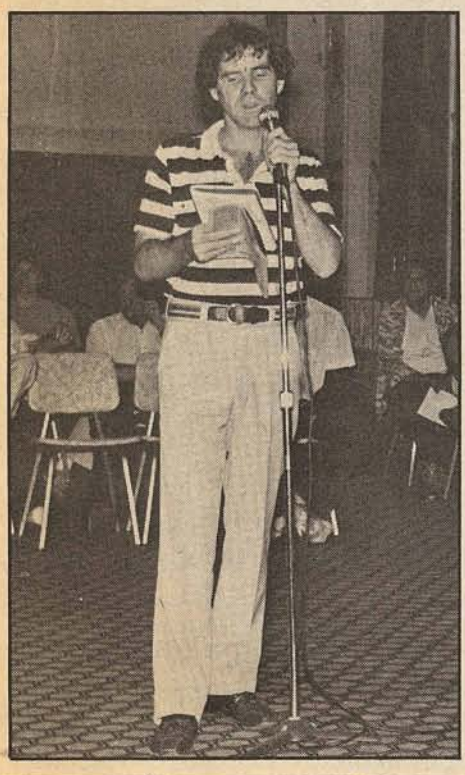
have access to the news media. You are responsible for putting those people on that Commission. It's your responsibility to hold those folks accountable. You all can go back to the City Council tomorrow or whenever the next meeting is and demand that they disclose minutes of what has been discussed at those meetings. You all can do that. And that is the kind of information we need, because there is a masterplan going on in our communities."

Arturo Vasquez from Pilsen explained that community's experience in trying to keep small light manufacturers and jobs they provide in the area.

"It's very obvious, as we've heard tonight, that the Commission itself is composed of those businesses, those large corporations, banks, insurance companies that were in fact redlining the city of Chicago at that particular point. What seems to me is happening is that the Economic Development Commission has created a climate favorable to the people who sit on the Commission itself.

"This has meant that over the years the Economic Development Commission has not created a climate that would be favorable for small businesses. It has backed off its commitment to work with local industrial councils. Whereas before it helped support some of the staffs of local industrial councils, today, it does not support the staffs of local industrial councils, and in fact, it is not doing very much to try to maintain small industries, small businesses in the city of Chicago.

"This has very crucial impact



"Ten neighborhoods in Chicago, all within minutes of the Loop, have suffered the worst increase in unemployment (55 percent) from 1973-1979."
– Marc Zalkin

Montgomery Ward is presently located on, to the city. They will be in partnership with the new development that is developed along Goose Island and the Chicago River.

"We understand that is what's happening. We understand that Montgomery Ward, along with Harry Chaddick and Arthur Rubloff have been meeting on a regular consistent basis for the last five years trying to figure out how they're going to cut up Cabrini; whether Cabrini will be called Carl Sandburg West or Harry Chaddick Terrace. We know this is what's been going on in our community.

"We also understand concretely, based on what has happened in this city, and Black and poor communities across this country historically, that when folks get ready to move on us, they create an atmosphere and an environment in that community that frightens people and scares people off the land.

"And I want you all to understand something, because we don't

"My suggestion to my colleagues, based on testimony we have heard here tonight, is the same type of resolution that caused changes in the Chicago Fest concessionaires contract, that would necessitate a hearing before the City Council. We would ask you to please come down to testify before the City Council Committee and let the full Council know the type of things that have been going on."
– Ald. Clifford Kelley

upon the Latin Americans, the Black and the poor people in the city. Because hundreds of thousands of Chicago workers who work in those small industrial concerns get those jobs through linkage in the community, through word of mouth, and these are the kind of jobs that many of our people are living off of.

"In terms of our particular experience in the Pilsen community, we've been trying to save 250 jobs in the 16th and Canal area in what's called the Schoenhofen Brewery. This particular brewery has been designated an urban renewal area for the last four years. The urban renewal department has carried, every year, a couple of million dollars to be spent in that area to bring down some walls, to clean out some buildings so there can be expansion for those industries. But nothing has been done although the city has had the money for some time.

"In all of this the Economic Development Commission was absolutely silent. They've done nothing to assist the industrialists in that area..

Keep Strong editor, Marc Zalkin, testifying last, explained that ten neighborhoods in Chicago, all within minutes of the Loop, have suffered the worst increase in unemployment (55 percent) from 1973 to 1979. The dramatic figures were not a coincidence, Zalkin went on to prove. He showed that the central part of the city had witnessed the greatest withdrawal of jobs over the past five years. "There is a relationship between the rise of unemployment in these neighborhoods; the removal of jobs from the center of the city and the masterplan; the Chicago 21 Plan to transform the city of Chicago from the inside out and eliminate working people in the process."

"We found that the rate of jobs leaving the city is increasing—that in the late 1960s it averaged around 7,000 jobs a year that were leaving the city. By 1975 the figure had come around 13,000. And this year, and I won't name all the particulars now, the figure will be as high as 20,000 jobs leaving the city and that's an increase in rate.

"More importantly, in 1976 alone, one year after the formation of the Economic Development Commission, 51,000 jobs left the city in that year. Between 55 and 60 percent of these jobs were in three areas—the area that the bureaucrats call the outer business ring, which basically goes to North Avenue, Ashland Avenue and 18th Street, surrounding the Loop. That year, 1976, that area which is the heart of the Chicago 21 Plan area, lost 12,000 jobs in that year alone. The south side, which runs between 18th Street and 79th Street, between California and the lake, lost 11,000 jobs. The interesting thing about that particular area, which is not really a very large area, is that from 1972 to 1977 the total number of jobs that were moved out of the area was 35,000 in a five-year period."

Aldermen Davis and Kelley rose to thank the Employment Action Coalition and the people who had come to the hearing for bringing vital information forward. Alderman Davis told the group, "You have given us a charge that is a charge that we accept. One to further explore and investigate what has happened with the EDC. And perhaps more importantly, what will happen in the future. We accept that charge and we accept the responsibility."

Alderman Kelley ended the hearing on a positive note and a promise, "We definitely have something to go with here...

"My suggestion to my colleagues, based on testimony we have heard here tonight, is the same type of resolution that caused changes in the Chicagofest concessionaires contract, that would necessitate a hearing before the city council. We would ask you to please come down to testify before the City Council Committee and let the full Council know the type of things that have been going on."□

WOMEN IN THE MINES

Text and pictures by Mountain Life and Work

Women from West Virginia and Kentucky have traditionally worked long hours for poor pay. Often divorced with families to support, women have tried to get jobs in the mines only to be told by the giant coal companies, "We're not hiring," or "You're not qualified." But in 1978 Island Creek Coal and 152 other coal companies were charged with discrimination. The campaign is on to open the mines to women.

Negotiations concerning discriminatory hiring practices are currently underway between the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) and Island Creek Coal Company, the nation's fourth largest coal producer. These proceedings follow a special government review which was initiated after a complaint was filed by the Coal Employment Project (CEP) in June, 1978. The complaint charged Island Creek and 152 other coal companies with blatant sex discrimination in hiring practices. According to Executive Order 11246, companies such as these, which receive government contracts for work, cannot discriminate against women and must have affirmative action hiring programs.

At this point in the negotiations with the government OFCCP, Island Creek Coal maintains that there are not enough women interested in applying for this work to make compliance to the CEP demands possible.

"What about us? We applied," was the reaction of Joy King of Wheelwright, Kentucky, upon hearing Island Creek's claims that women aren't applying for mining jobs. She described the day in January 1980 when she and a friend Sue Jones, also of Wheelwright, applied for work at Island Creek. It was their third time to apply for work there.

"At first, they said they weren't taking applications. Then, after we were already down to the car, a man came out of the office and said they would take applications."

After some confusion concerning the application forms (the two women first received disability papers), Joy King and Sue Jones applied for work. The company then told them to complete the 24-hour training for outside mine work and to return to the office with their certificates.

"In mining, a woman can have more money and a career too."

"Qualified women ought to get an equal chance and equal pay."

"But when we went back, they wouldn't even take our certificate numbers. They said they weren't hiring and to come back in four months. They left our names in the inactive file. I don't see why they didn't take our numbers so they could list us as qualified on our records and put our names in the active file," complained Ms. Jones.

Ms. King agreed, "The certificates are only good for a year and we've been waiting four months. They're wasting away."

Divorced and supporting two children, Ms. King explained her reasons for wanting the job. "I'm living off child support right now. I'm eligible for welfare. I don't want to live off my ex-husband. I want to be able to support myself."

Ms. King discovered that jobs traditionally held by women in her area generally offer poor pay and long hours.

"Why should a woman have to settle for minimum wage?," she asked. "In mining she can have more money and a career, too."

At age 25, Ms. King is interested in pursuing a career that will be rewarding and challenging.

"I want to make a career for myself. I'd like to be either a federal or state mine inspector someday. The best way [to become an inspector] is to start as a miner and work my way up—that's what I want to do," she explained.

Originally from Michigan, Ms. King has lived in Wheelwright, Kentucky for eight years. While living in Detroit, she worked in Ford Motor Company factories.

"I've had a lot of experience working with machinery. That's why I applied for outside work around the mines. I have mechanical ability," she stressed, adding, "I know I can handle it. But if I can't, I'll go ahead and admit it. Then I'll just train to do something else."

She has also had little success in gaining entry into the Archer Park Mine Repair School in Prestonsburg, Kentucky. Yet she plans to keep reapplying for mine repair training and for work in the mines.

She promised, "When I'm an inspector, I'll be fair, I won't take bribes. But these companies who wouldn't give me a chance—they better stick right to the guidelines!"

Sue Jones is also divorced and has four children to support. She described the scarcity of jobs in Wheelwright. "There's nothing else to do to earn money around here but work in the mines."

Presently employed as a Floyd County school bus driver, Ms. Jones hopes to drive a coal truck some day.

"I proved I could handle it [operating a large vehicle]. But Island Creek won't give me a chance. Every day I haul 200 kids in this district. I'm trusted with their lives. I don't see why they [Island Creek] won't trust me with an insured coal truck."

Ms. Jones, who was born in McDowell, Kentucky and has spent most of her life in eastern Kentucky, said many of her friends and relatives have worked in coal mines.

"I know the work is hard...And I know I can handle a machine just as well as any man," she said.

Having applied at other firms, Ms. Jones found that most companies require experience that has been thus far almost impossible for women to attain.

Joy King (left) and Sue Jones (right) of Floyd County, Kentucky applied twice for work at Island Creek Co. and were turned away. Hundreds of women in West Virginia and Kentucky have been denied jobs in the mines. "There's nothing else to do to earn money around here but work in the mines," says Sue Jones.

"How can you get experience if they won't hire you?" she asks, pointing out that men workers must have been inexperienced at one time also.

Yet she has no resentment for the men already working in the mines and does not anticipate any harassment from them.

A complaint against Island Creek Coal Company and 152 other coal companies which receive government contracts charges that the companies have discriminated against women in their hiring practices. An executive order requires that such companies have affirmative action programs.

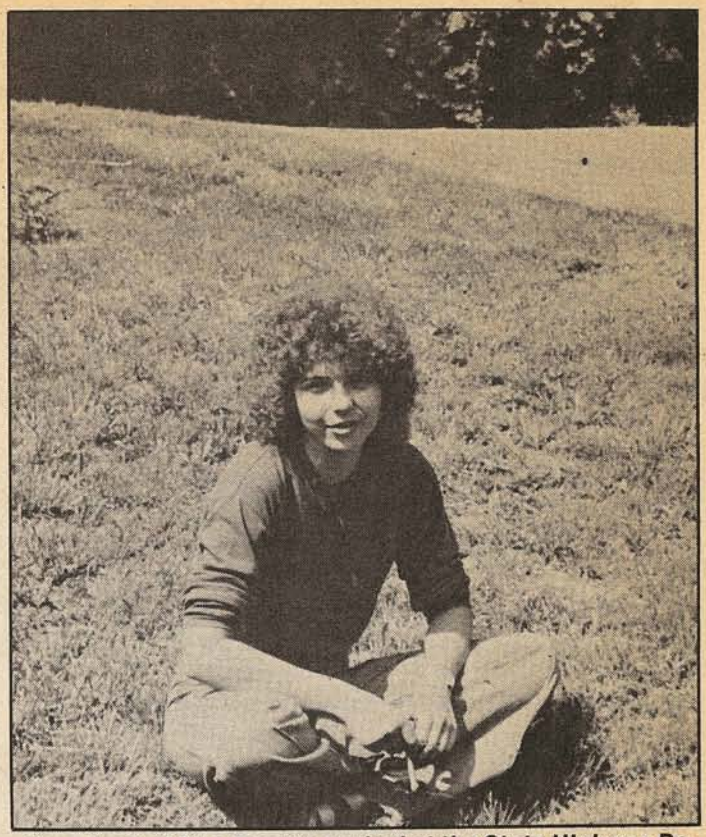
"I work with men now. They never give me any trouble...They have their stories and their ways but that doesn't bother me."

What does bother her is the existence of widespread area disapproval of females entering formerly male-dominated fields.

"I was the first woman in my school district to get a job driving a bus. My biggest problem was with the public. They threatened me. They had demonstrations. They even lined their cars up and followed my bus to school the first day. I couldn't quit then, I had something to prove."

Like Ms. Jones, Mary Hunt of Sidney, Kentucky, has held a traditional male job. She worked for 39 months with the Kentucky State Highway Department on a survey crew. She has also just completed two years of study at Southern West Virginia Community College in a Mining Technology Program, with a major in Civil Engineering and a minor in Mining Engineering. While there she maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or above. She has also studied welding at the Belfry Vocational School.

Betty Jean Hall (above) initiated the discrimination complaint brought by the Coal Employment Project in 1978 against 153 coal companies. Federal officials are now bringing pressure on Island Creek Coal to set hiring quotas for women.



Mary Hunt of Pike County worked at the State Highway Department for years and received college training in mining technology. Island Creek still won't give her a job.

"I applied to Island Creek in the summer of 1978," related Ms. Hunt. "They told me I was practically guaranteed a job by the fall. But first I had to complete the underground training course and get my papers," she explained.

Unfortunately, a record error in the Department of Mines and Minerals delayed her certificate. So, during the winter of 1979, she worked in a nuclear power plant in North Carolina. When an illness in her family brought her back to Kentucky in the spring, she reapplied with Island Creek.

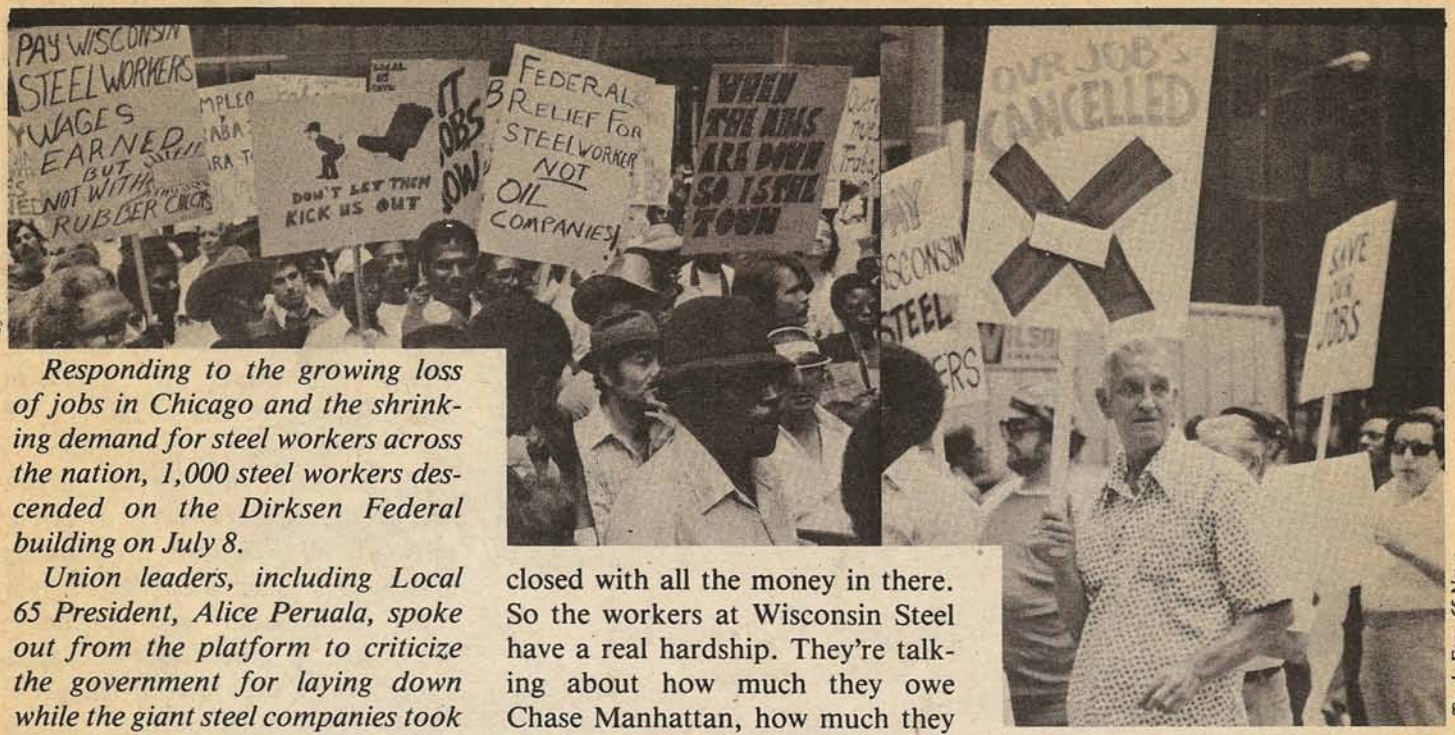
"My papers came through that spring. I reapplied but they said they couldn't hire me until all their layoffs returned to work," she recounted.

For that reason she has begun applying for work in other industries. But she maintained, "I would still like to work for Island Creek. I live close to their operations. I've wanted to work for them for a long time...Just about everybody in my family was in the mines. It must be in the blood."

Although some women worry about relations with male co-workers in such male-dominated industries, Mary Hunt offered this advice: "It's all in your attitude...If you go in with the attitude that, 'I'm going to do my job,' you'll make it. Just stick with it."

For now it seems that many women seeking jobs with Island Creek must stick to it just to begin. Mary Hunt summed up, "I don't have anything against Island Creek. I just think a qualified woman ought to get an equal chance and equal pay."□

Steel Workers March...


PAY WISCONSIN STEEL WORKERS WAGES EARNED BUT NOT WITH RUBBER CHECKS
DON'T LET THEM KICK US OUT
JOBS NOW
FEDERAL RELIEF FOR STEELWORKER NOT OIL COMPANIES
WHEN THE MILLS ARE DOWN SO IS THE TOWN
OUR JOBS CANCELLED
SAVE OUR JOBS

Syd Harris

Trudy Farr, 65 News

Responding to the growing loss of jobs in Chicago and the shrinking demand for steel workers across the nation, 1,000 steel workers descended on the Dirksen Federal building on July 8.

Union leaders, including Local 65 President, Alice Peruala, spoke out from the platform to criticize the government for laying down while the giant steel companies took their profits by throwing families into crisis and wrecking whole communities by shutdowns and plants moving. While the speakers promised more demonstrations and growing opposition, it was the voices of the crowd that actually told the story.

Frank Lumpkin

Wisconsin Steel, 30 years

"What happened after 30 years, they took our vacation pay, they didn't pay the last two weeks we worked there. Now they claim bankruptcy. It's a bankruptcy case between Harvester, Wisconsin Steel and Chase Manhattan Bank. The thing that bothers most of the workers is that they were paid off in Chase Manhattan Bank's checks and all the checks bounced. I am the man that had 14 checks that bounced. And there's nothing we can do, nobody to get my money back, $9,000. They can get me but they can't get them banks.

"Not only that, the credit union closed with all the money in there. So the workers at Wisconsin Steel have a real hardship. They're talking about how much they owe Chase Manhattan, how much they owe Continental, how much they owe everybody else, but they haven't said a single word about the money they owe the workers. I lost all I had, and nobody did better than that. I had 13 weeks vacation coming, you get it every five years.

"I went to the prosecutor at 26th and California. They gave me checks that bounced and they made me stand good for Chase Manhattan Bank checks that bounced. They said, sure it's fraud. I said, I want to file a suit, and they said, you can't do it, you have to go to wage and hour on Michigan Avenue. I go over there and they say you got to go to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). I go up to the NLRB and I wind up in the same place. Nobody's going to fight the banks, nobody's going to fight the steel companies."

Bill Fields

U.S. Steel, 10 years

"I've been laid off two weeks. The prospects for the future are very indefinite. You hear so many rumors you don't know what to believe. One rumor says a lot of us will be laid off till spring of 1981. I just don't want to deal with that. They're combining jobs, some people will never get back on the job. This is what we're out here for. The company is using everybody and they're not telling us what to expect.

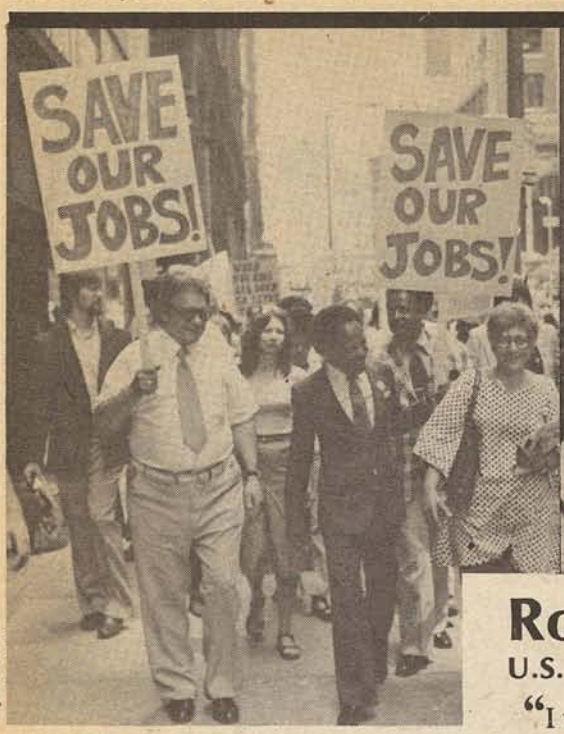
"A lot of people that are in my area (South Chicago) are laid off. If I get laid off for any long period of time, I stand a chance of losing my home, which I bought since I've been at U.S. Steel."

Jerry Harris

South Works, 3 years

"It's a good first step. The labor movement in this country has got to start hitting the streets, has to start uniting with community groups, and all other working people and start to fight back against the economic crisis for ourselves, not for

...The Fire Leaves The Furnace



Syd Harris

Jerry Harris, 65 News

Ross Bauerle

U.S. Steel, 2 years

"I was on sick leave since last December and just as I was coming back to work I found out I was laid off.

"I think the city should stop doing all the games they are playing and start putting the money where it belongs, keep the people working. The other day I heard that Jane Byrne wants to have an auto race on Lake Shore Drive. She's going to be putting out thousands of dollars to put on this race which should be helping us keep our jobs. She came and visited South Works last month, she wouldn't talk to any of the union representatives that helped her get into the mayor's position, she wouldn't talk to the news, she wouldn't talk to anybody but the people from U.S. Steel. They were saying something about her coming out and checking out the plant, saying what great condition it's in, and how much money U.S. Steel is putting into it. But the department I'm working in (structural finishing) is unsafe to work in because they're not repairing anything. The floors are caving in where they had the beds. They're putting the money in their pockets.

"The reason why the cars aren't being sold is that everybody is out of work, all these mills are shutting down. U.S. Steel is buying all their steel from Japan and Germany, U.S. Steel is part owner of Japan Steel Works, they have all their coal mines in South Africa, which they're supplying Japan with, and buying the steel from Japan, and putting us out of work. South Africa's where they're getting all the slave labor. They're getting all the stuff cheap so why do they need us? So for a while nothing's going to be sold, no one's going to be working and all hell's going to break loose. And no one's helping. Jane Byrne ain't helping, the government's not helping, no one's helping, and these fat people are sitting back laughing at us while we're walking around.

"My wife works at a restaurant and she's watching the effect on the truck drivers. She's noticed it at the restaurant where half the business has gone down in the last month. She works at a truck stop, all the truck drivers are losing their trucks because they can't pay for them, there's no steel to haul, everybody's hurting. I'm having trouble paying my rent. If it wasn't for my wife working, I couldn't afford my rent and utilities and eat at the same time."□

the Democratic Party, but for our own interests.

"You talk about U.S. Steel being the largest employer of minority workers in Chicago. You talk about closing down for the summer. You talk about throwing thousands of people out on the street with no money in the summer, you're talking about another Miami in Chicago. A long, hot summer.

"One thing I think the city can do is demand federal money for Chicago for public works, public jobs—schools, child care centers, housing. That's going to put a lot of unemployed people to work also.

"Wisconsin Steel, which was foreclosed by Chase Manhattan Bank, Chase Manhattan is the second most active lender to Japanese steel. The problem isn't imports, it's runaway shops, it's runaway capital, investing their money anywhere in the world where it's going to turn a bigger profit. That's what they're interested in, not in people, not in communities, not in families, money, that's all."

Derailed - Pullman Standard Closing

CHICAGO – Despite growing demands from all parts of the United States for mass transit, Pullman Standard, the nation's number one rail passenger car builder, is closing shop – for good. Company officials say they are losing money. They claim absenteeism, low worker productivity and foreign competition are to blame.

Pullman workers, on the other hand, tell a different story. Waste, parts shortages and mismanagement, they say, amount to deliberate "sabotage" of production. Officials at Amtrak, Pullman's main customer, agree that a big part of the problem has been Pullman's "managerial approach."

Pat Djondo, member of the Save Our Jobs Committee told KEEP STRONG, "They've been slowing things down. All their intentions are to do everything possible to make their financial reports look bad. On these cars we're building for Amtrak, we had it going, all of a sudden they started new programs. Once you get a program going so beautiful and well-coordinated and all of a sudden they come up with obstacles, they're not doing anything but making the outfit look bad."

"If we build mass transit we'll put hundreds of thousands of people back to work building passenger cars, rail stations – Can you imagine all the steel needed to rebuild the rail beds?"

According to reports issued to stockholders, Pullman will end up $80-100 million in the red after completing their last remaining contract with Amtrak. These losses will decrease the corporation's net income by $40-50 million in 1980, they predict. Pullman is suing Amtrak over the number of lounge cars they were supposed to build under the 1976 contract. The lawsuit against Amtrak was filed apparently after attempts to re-adjust prices in the contract failed.

"The contract was reasonable and flexible,"says John Jacobsen

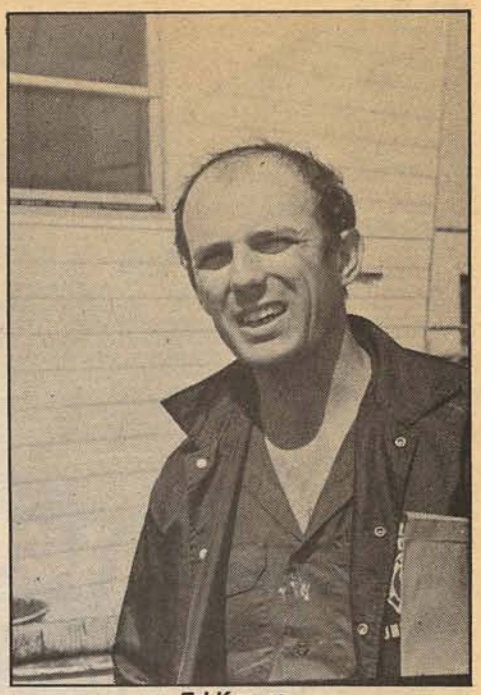
of Amtrak's Public Affairs Department in Washington, D.C. "It had a specific escalator clause which allowed for increases in labor and parts costs. The problem goes much further than rising costs."

Pullman workers, however, aren't surprised that company management would blame them for causing the problem. "It's always the worker's fault when something goes wrong," says Jim Balanoff, District 31 Director of the United Steel Workers Union. "When they make big profit it's always the management." Another worker echoed, "I don't think you'd find another company in the world that wouldn't say the same thing. They're going to blame the worker. It's not that they don't want to make a profit, they want to make a quick profit. Anybody in the plant will tell you 'just look at the things they throw away.' We're being made scapegoats."

Joe Ward, another member of Save Our Jobs agrees, "We've seen entire lines of cars being built with one crew going in and installing a set of equipment and another crew following behind tearing the stuff out. We've seen 10,000 engineering changes on the Amtrak order. I worked on a pipefitter's crew and we started at 15 percent productivity. Within a month we were up to 46 percent productivity and the first thing they did was to take the crew apart and put them on all different lines. Whenever they get something good going on that plant they break it up. They destroy your incentive to work. I don't even think it comes from the foremen on the floor—it comes from the top."

While only a few Pullman workers actually believe that Pullman is losing profits, a clear majority believe that profits aren't the issue anyway. "Pullman is the best equipped manufacturer of passenger cars in the U.S.," says

Pat Djondo



Ed Knaus

Pat Djondo—"All their intentions are to do every thing possible to make their financial reports look bad. Once you get a program going so beautiful...they come up with obstacles."

Ward. "They made a profit for over 100 years—now they claim they can't. I don't care about that—the point is we need mass transit."

"Jimmy Carter says the answer to the energy crisis is a ten cent a gallon tax—that's not the answer" says John Bowman, President of U.S.S.W. Local 1834. "The answer is mass transit. Not only because of the energy crisis, but because of pollution. The automobile is the biggest polluter. If we build mass transit we'll put hundreds of thousands of people back to work building passenger cars, rail stations. Can you imagine all the steel needed to rebuild the railbeds?"

For some reason, Pullman management doesn't quite see eyeball to eyeball with Bowman's view. When they announced they were going out of the passenger-car building business, Pullman officials cited "sporadic purchasing orders and an unstable competitive environment caused by the entry of foreign competitors."

Jacobsen of Amtrak, however disputes both points. "Our equipment needs will be predictable and stable over the next several years and the growing number of transit systems will continue to place orders for the rest of the decade. We've always felt it was in the national interest to keep as many American car builders in business as possible. We've tried to spread contracts around as much as possible." Pullman's exit from the market leaves only Budd Company of Philadelphia to build passenger cars in the U.S. Owned by a West German firm, Budd was just awarded a contract to build 150 cars at $1 million each, adding to its five-year backlog.

According to C. Tyler, Vice-President of Amtrak, the nationally owned passenger corporation, will

Joe Ward, Save Our Jobs Committee

"They have systematically sabotaged the production of mass transit since the 1940s. General Motors went in and bought up controlling stock in every mass transit system in the U.S., so that people would have to be more dependent on the automobile...
...They're giving Chrysler $3 billion to bail them out to produce more junk cars so we can pay for gas to drive back and forth to work."

need between 2,000 and 2,500 new cars in coming years. He predicts that commuter and inner-city services will need between 5,000 and 10,000 cars.

"We'll be very sorry to see Pullman go," says Jacobsen, "the superliner is a gorgeous car. Anyone who works at Pullman can be proud to have his name stamped on it. We're getting very, very positive feedback from the public."

"They've sabotaged the building of mass transit for two reasons in my opinion," says Joe Ward. "One, they personally want to get out of the business, they're chasing quick profits in the petro-chemical business. Two, because America, and I don't mean the American people, I mean the American corporations, don't want to see mass transit in this country. They have systematically sabotaged the production of mass transit since the 1940s. General Motors went in and bought up controlling stock in every major transit system in the U.S., so that people would have to be more dependent on the automobile."

Recent events do little to discredit Ward and others who believe that the powerful automotive and oil monopolies are behind the setbacks for mass transit. Pullman Inc. has over the years become a diversified conglomerate with heavy investments in petro-chemical engineering and production. Recently, J. Ray McDermott, a similarly-sized multi-national corporation with big investments in off-shore drilling and nuclear energy, made a bid to buy 25 percent of Pullman Inc. Additionally, research by KEEP STRONG shows that the corporate directors of Pullman interlock with Gulf Oil, Goodyear Tire and Rubber and Tenneco Oil, a huge automotive and oil manufacturer.

"Carter is subsidizing the production of synthetic fuels with $20 billion and the feds aren't going to put up $500 million to buy Pullman and produce more mass transit. They're giving Chrysler $3 billion to bail them out to produce more junk cars so we can pay for the gas to drive back and forth to work. Let's get something back from our tax dollar that everyone can use. That's the insanity of what's happening at Pullman," said Ward.

While union officials and the Save Our Jobs Committee are trying to pressure local, state and federal legislatures into keeping the plant open, Pullman is proceeding full speed ahead with shutdown plans. Workers with four to four and one half years of seniority are being transferred to different departments or plants so they lose their seniority and are placed at the bottom of the list again.

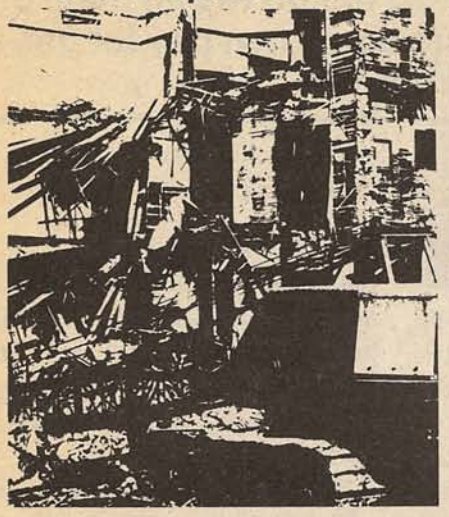
"Three hundred have been laid off already," according to George Terrell, editor of the union newspaper. "There is widespread insecurity among the employees. Some of the employees are looking for lower paying jobs. In this section of the country we're headed into a serious depression. The workers know there's no jobs to be had. They know they can't go over to the steel mills and be hired."

"This is going to have a big impact on our family," the wife of a Pullman worker told KEEP STRONG. "They're forcing people into poverty, they're forcing people into crime, by taking the workers out of the workplace. People have homes and responsibilities that they want to keep, as well as the people who own Pullman. People that own Pullman have a very good income and stable positions—they don't have these worries. I think it's just low-down dirty, because people haven't stopped riding the trains. I ride the trains myself."□

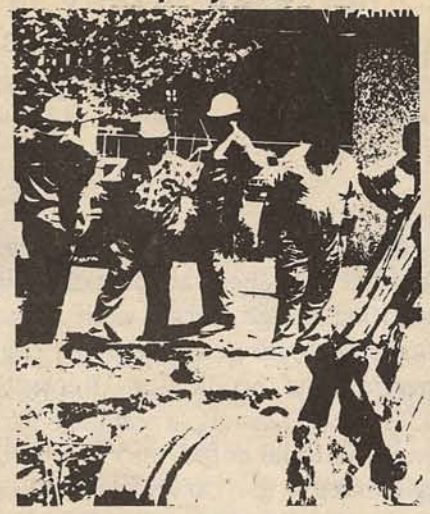
Heart of Uptown Coalition
MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION

August 17-23, 1980

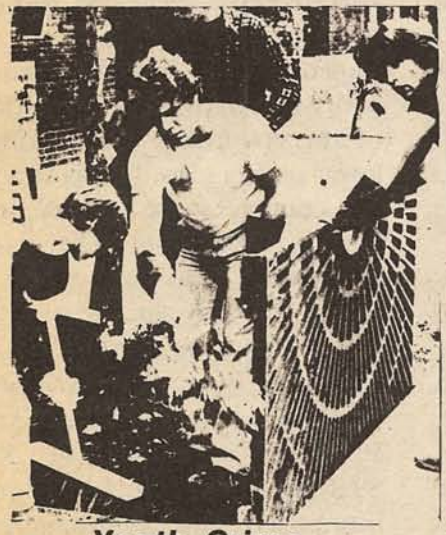
Anti-Displacement



Employment



Education



Youth, Crime, Criminal Justice

Chicago Area Black Lung Assoc.

Survival Day

Opening Session

Sunday, August 17
2 pm – place to be announced

The Opening Session will concentrate on the general theme of the Convention. The HOUC has invited all of its allies from around the city to show support and solidarity for the struggle of the people of Uptown.

The HOUC Committees will present their proposed program to the membership. The mayor has been invited to address the people of Uptown.

Monday, August 18
7 pm at 1222 W. Wilson

Anti-Displacement

- **What can be done to prevent any further destruction of Uptown's housing and the displacement of its people?**
- **Can private developers be made to serve existing residents?**
- **Can HOUC develop resources to rebuild Uptown's housing?**

The 1980-81 Anti-Displacement Strategy will be proposed and ratified at this meeting.

Wednesday, August 20
7 pm at 4833 N. Broadway

Education

- **Will the city schools be opened this fall?**
- **Can parents create a structure to ensure that parents have a role in the public schools?**
- **Can the local schools be made accountable to the community?**

The HOUC Education Strategy for 1980-81 will be proposed and ratified at this meeting.

Friday, August 22
7 pm at 1222 W. Wilson

Chicago Area Black Lung Assoc. and Occupational Health

- **CABLA will present its 1980-81 Program and commemorate the struggle for justice by the nation's coal miners.**
- **The status of the Uptown People's Health Center.**
- **Are the factories safe; can they be made safe?**

Tuesday, August 19
7 pm at 1222 W. Wilson

Employment

- **Where are all the city's jobs going?**
- **Can we force construction contractors to hire from our community?**
- **Can new jobs be created?**

The HOUC Job Action Strategy for 1980-81 will be proposed and ratified at this meeting.

Thursday, August 21
7 pm at 1222 W. Wilson

Youth, Crime and the Criminal Justice System

- **Can our youth become constructive members of the community?**
- **Can the police be made to serve the interests of Uptown residents?**
- **How can we assist our brothers and sisters incarcerated in Illinois prisons and jails?**

Saturday, August 23
1 pm to 6 pm
on the Sunnyside Mall

Uptown's 5th Annual Survival Day Celebration

- **The HOUC's new Steering Committee will be presented.**
- **Music and Sports**
- **Free Dinner**

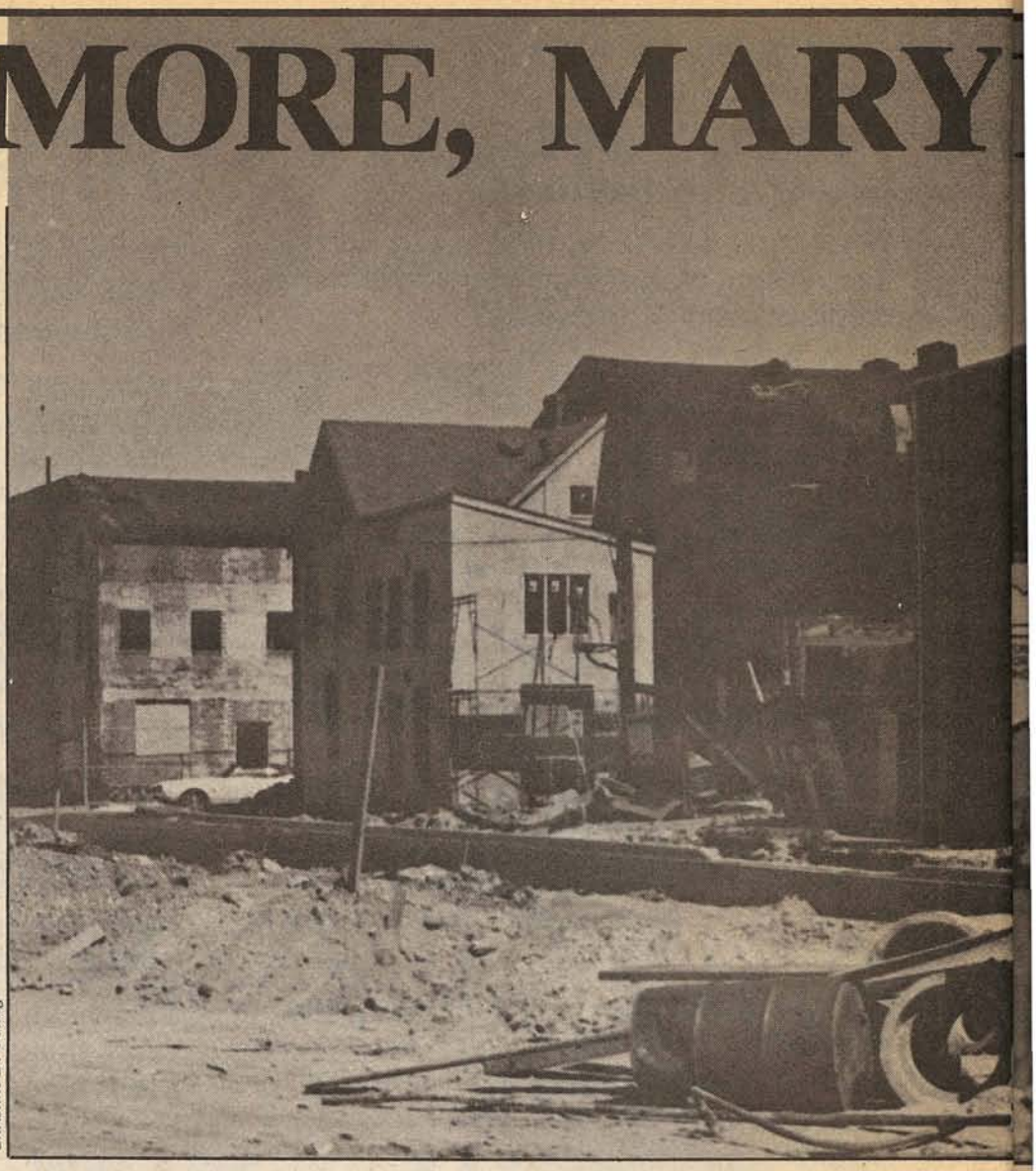
Express Your Concern for Uptown's Future

Participate in the Convention

For more info. call: *HEART OF UPTOWN COALITION, 1222 W. Wilson, (312) 769-2085*

BALTIMORE, MARY

The People Have To Fight— There's No Place Left To Go...

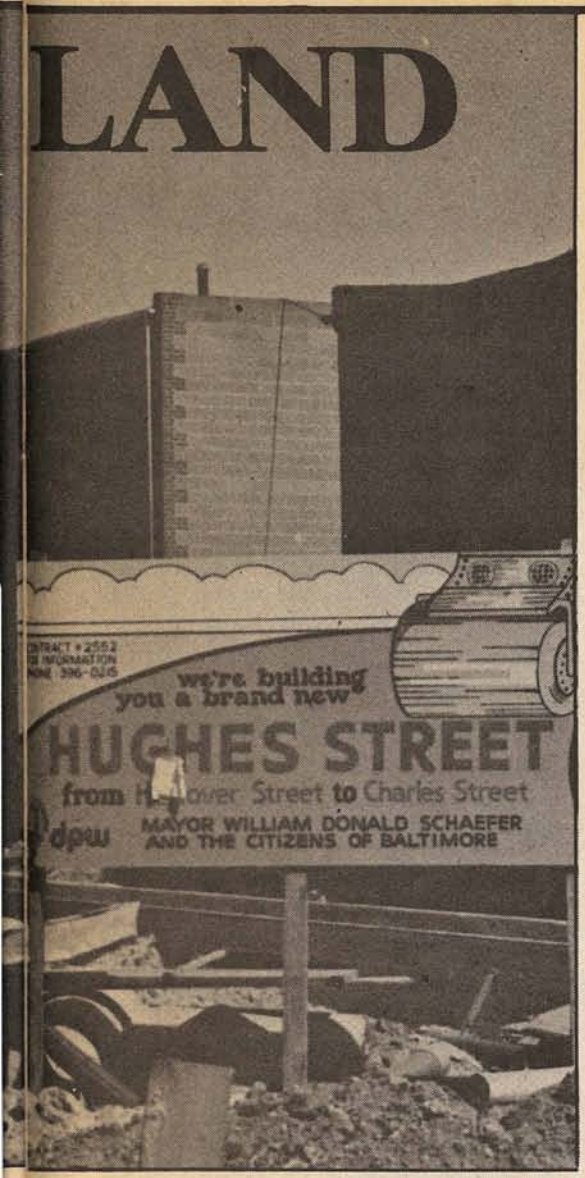


Christine D. Young

BALTIMORE—Fells Point, five o'clock in the afternoon. Two dozen construction crews have gone home for the day and the streets are nearly deserted. Here and there young couples are walking in or out of the shiny rehabbed buildings, an old waterfront neighborhood on its way to becoming chic. In the meantime, the narrow houses are abandoned, those that aren't burned. Whole blocks are rung with cyclone fences. The fence is a sign that a developer bought the whole block. The six-room houses that rented for $60 a month ten years ago will sell quickly for $150-200 thousand once the work is done and the fence comes down.

Across town, on Lorraine Street in Remington, Andrew Turner sits on his stoop and remembers the evacuation of Fells Point. "It seems to me that whatever they want they get. They don't think of the poor people. They don't give a damn whether you can afford it or not. If they want it they get it. Look what they did down around where they built the inner harbor project. They actually ran people out of there. They condemned the houses. There was a big stink about that. The people that owned the houses didn't want to move. What the hell did the city do but condemn them and force them out. Because the big shots wanted the harbor down there and they got it eventually. All the people that could afford it sold out and moved out. The people that lived there all their lives were forced out. From what I understand they made them a reasonable offer. But still these were people that lived there all their lives. It was their homes. They wouldn't take a million dollars for them. The people refused the offers, so the city condemned the houses and forced the people out. As a matter of fact they had to come and carry some of the people out bodily. Bodily they carried them out. You get some of these old folks that's been living there all their lives, they don't give a shit what you want that property for. Man, it went on for months down there, the people fighting for their homes. But eventually they got them. I hope this neighborhood is still here in five years. You never know, though, never know."

It's 1980 and the city fathers of Baltimore, Maryland have grown weary of those who built the city and vice versa. Tens of thousands have already been removed from the communities, thousands more will be moving soon. The real estate



gentry developers that twisted Black people out of Washington, D.C. by the block, were moving into Baltimore by the middle of the 1970s. They bought up houses in lots of 200 and 300, forcing the city's vacancy rate down to two percent (the government says five percent is as low as the figure should ever get). Families scrambled in every direction and rents in the remaining units soared 100 percent.

In November of 1979, 72,000 people elected a rent control ordinance for the city, winning by 5,000 votes. The real estate movers who had marshalled three-quarters of a million dollars to oppose the referendum, and still lost the vote, challenged the election's outcome in court. A local judge overturned it. The organizers of the rent control campaign appealed the judge's ruling to a higher court. But that court also dismissed the election, saying the referendum itself was taking power from the city council and that was illegal.

Shirley Laughlin lives a few doors from Andrew Turner. She supported the rent control ordinance. "They put it on the ballot to vote for. To vote (to have an election) it takes taxpayers' money. After the vote they knocked it right out anyway. You aren't shitting, I voted for it. If anybody's got a bad landlady, I've got one.

"I think they all stink, I really do. These poor people don't even have a chance. I mean there's people worse off than I am and they don't even have a chance. If you walk around with a lot of money in your pocket you don't have to worry about property. So they don't care about anybody else. You don't have to worry about an eviction notice put on your door if you don't have a month's rent.

"I pay $180 a month for everything. I've been here four years, redid this house myself, basement and all. I fell through the kitchen floor and now she's got a lawsuit against me because I asked her for information about insurance. Can you believe this shit?

"I haven't been to court yet. I asked for a jury trial because the greatest part of a judges are property owners and they're going to rule for the landlord. I'm going to fight this one all the way. When it's over I'm going to counter-sue and get my own lawyer. This goes way back. She [the landlady] holds onto water bills. I owed $200 for water bills she was holding that I didn't know about. The judge said, 'Pay it or you have to move because you're responsible for the property.' If I'm responsible, then the landlord doesn't have anything to do with it except pay taxes. Then it should be my building.

"I helped my neighbor pull dead rats from under her porch. I've seen rats running around having a good time in broad daylight. The landlords and the city rat control stink. The whole thing is just a big hassle. I want to see some changes, not for my benefit, but for the people that's got it worse than I do."

Midway between Mr. Turner and Ms. Laughlin, Tom Noble, a disabled truck driver, lives with his wife and son. Noble pays $300 a month for six rooms and eight square feet of concrete, a backyard that's filled with rats at night.

Christine D. Young

"...People that lived there all their lives were forced out."

"If I knew they had it [the rent control referendum last November] I would have voted for it. They need to put something in there because the landlords nowadays don't

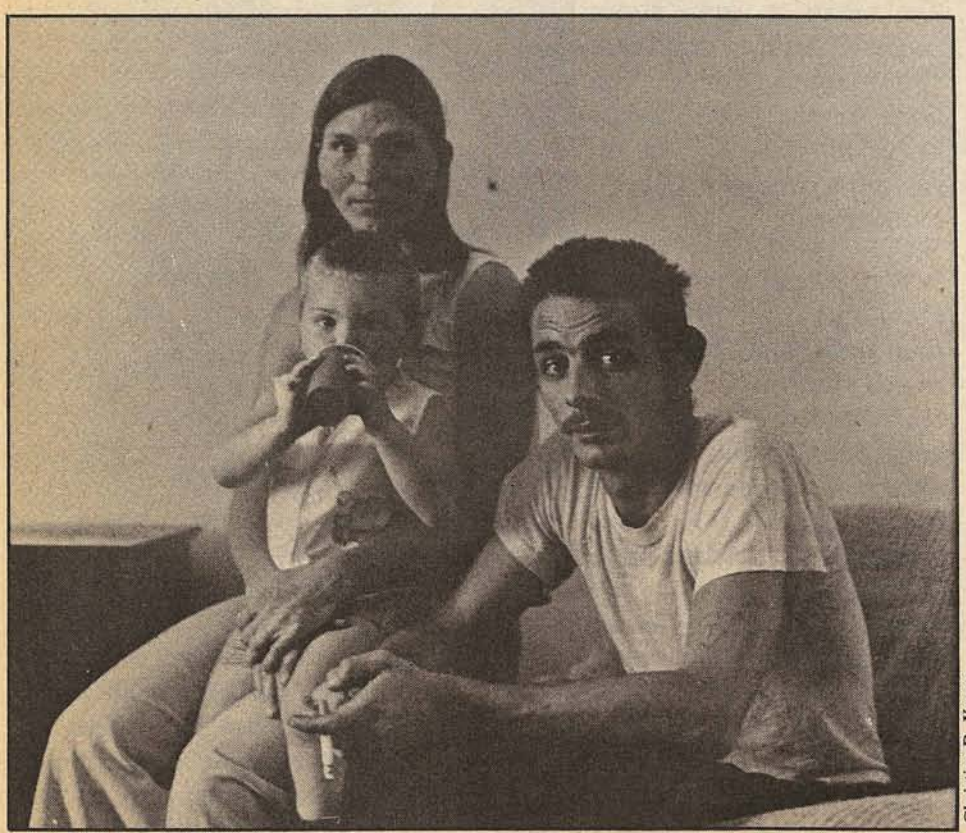
BALTIMORE

want to give you nothing."

Noble rises from his chair. "Let me show you something," he says as he walks to a broken bannister dividing the narrow second floor landing from a steep staircase below. "Now I'm going to show you how these landlords are. See this bannister," he says, pointing to an accident waiting to happen. "I rented this place on the 26th of last month and I've been after him to get it replaced. Now this is dangerous. That's dangerous. It took from the 26th of May up to today to get faucets that work for the bathroom. And I told him that I'd put them in myself if he got them. They don't want to do nothing.

"The courts work with the landlords. If you don't have the money to pay one rent, what makes the judge think you're going to be able to pay another rent after he sets you out? There's a rent receipt for $200 and another for $80. I pay all my own utilities. But they don't want to do nothing in here for all that money. That's why the tenants won't pay the rent. Because the landlords don't want to do nothing. The landlord took the screens out. He said they were his. After I paid the rent on the place he came up and took them out. Today we got hot water. Since the first of the month we didn't have no hot water."

The rent control movement that flashed its force last November was made up of a coalition of groups and people that wanted to challenge power in America's 7th largest city. While rent control was the issue on the ballot, the growing antagonism between city power and city people in Baltimore feeds on more than just substandard/overpriced housing. Over a year ago the city put its own referendum on the ballot. This one was for a bond issue. The money from the bonds, they said, was needed to build a new aquarium. The referendum lost and the aquarium is now under construction. Within the last year, the city tried to shut down an emergency services center that served more than 330,000 people a year. Community organizations across the city put up a fight to keep the center open. Eventually the city retreated. Baltimore is one of five target cities in the country for the Federal Urban Mobilization Program that will attempt to move 500 inner city families a year out of the projects and into the suburbs. Resistance to the program, a plan to reduce Black political power in the central city, is growing from several different quarters in Baltimore. A rise in police murder and violence in the last five years in the city is bringing people by the thousands together to support a movement for community control of the police. They are demanding neighborhood boards to oversee the actions of police in individual communities and a citywide commission, elected by the people, to direct the Baltimore Police Department.

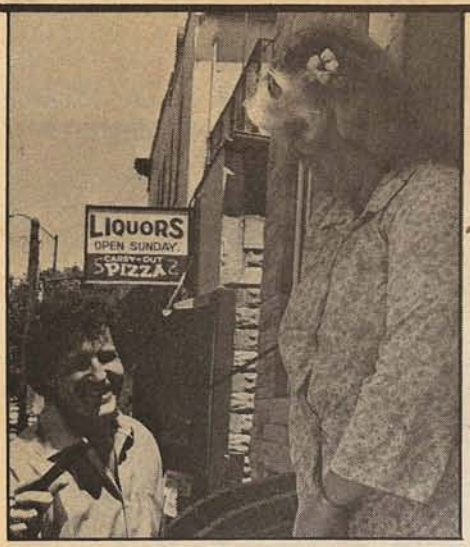


Christine D. Young

Tom Noble and family. He pays $300 a month for six rooms and eight square feet of concrete, a back yard that's filled with rats at night.

A key organizer of the movement to keep the emergency services center open was also the principal spokesman and organizer of the People's Coalition for Rent Control. Bob Cheeks, chairman of the Baltimore Welfare Rights organization, is a man in the center of much of the growing opposition in Baltimore. He sat in his sparsely furnished living room, talked about past campaigns and looked to the immediate future in Baltimore.

"The way the People's Coalition for Rent Control came together initially was that we were working on ways we could have impact. We started talking about rent control. I talked to a city councilman who said he'd be willing to introduce the



Shirley Laughlin: "I want to see some changes, not for my benefit, but for people that got it worse than I do."

necessary legislation. So we got together with legal aid, as our legal support, to explore what we could do legislatively. Just about four or five people started it off. We were looking for ways to get something through the city council that made sense. But because of our different politics—my politics suggest you don't trust elected officials unless you have to—there was disagreement early. We looked at the legislation of the two city council people. All of us agreed it was too weak. First the Coalition made a list of all the community organizations in the city. If they said they were community-based organizations, we contacted them. We wanted to see just how much they were going to involve themselves. We brought representation from all these organizations together. We formed a steering committee, then broke them down by districts. That was the initial thrust of the campaign.

"We said we were going to live or die with the people we always worked with. If our people are not registered, we'd get them registered [the campaign did in fact register 17,000 new voters from Black and White working class communities]. We'd make certain we'd get them out to vote.

"We used a consensus form. We did not use the majority vote system. Therefore people felt they were part of the decision-making process. The two big newspapers and three TV stations were all against us. The election turnout was not high: 72,500 were for rent control, 67,000 were against it. We've got a registration of five to one, Democrats to Republicans in this city and Schaffer [Baltimore's Democratic mayor] never got over 100,000 votes. In the first election we had a 28 percent turnout which means the majority of people eligible to vote don't vote. Before the election there was a challenge [by real estate developers]. Judge Kaplan said it might be a moot point because the referendum might not be carried. Our suspicions were that he had received council from people that there was no way that we could win the election.

"After we won the election, we had to go to court. He dusted off the challenges. They charged there was an improper procedure in the collection of signatures. [10,000 signatures were required to get the referendum on the ballot and over 36,000 signatures were collected by supporters of the rent control campaign.] They said a lot of the signatures were not from registered voters. They said that people who collected the signatures were not registered voters. They finally wound up challenging them on the basis that it was an improper measure for referendum. It tended to subvert the power of the city council and the mayor. He overruled the whole election.

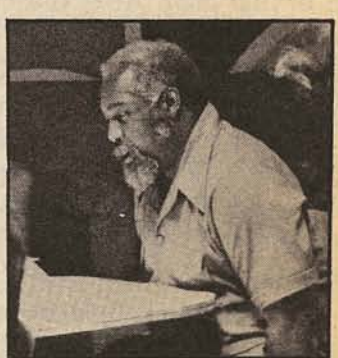
"The victory is that with $6,000 in our treasury, we managed to get over 70,000 people out to vote and they cannot overturn that happening. One of the things I've been saying is that politics in this city and state will never be the same again. They'll have to deal with us. Not fairly, but they'll have to deal with us differently. Even the Black politicians who tried to ignore us before can't any more.

"We can get rent control passed in Baltimore, but not effective rent control, not as the city council is structured now. We can get it by 1983 when we take over the city council and the mayor's seat. When we have proportionate representation, then we will get rent control, effective rent control, in 1983.

"We are involved in a five-year campaign to get what we want. Not just the issue of rent control, but the issue of poor people being involved in the whole political process. The Federal Urban Mobilization Program is an issue. The police, the schools—all these things will be hooked together, terminating with the election of a Black mayor in 1983. It all ties in."□

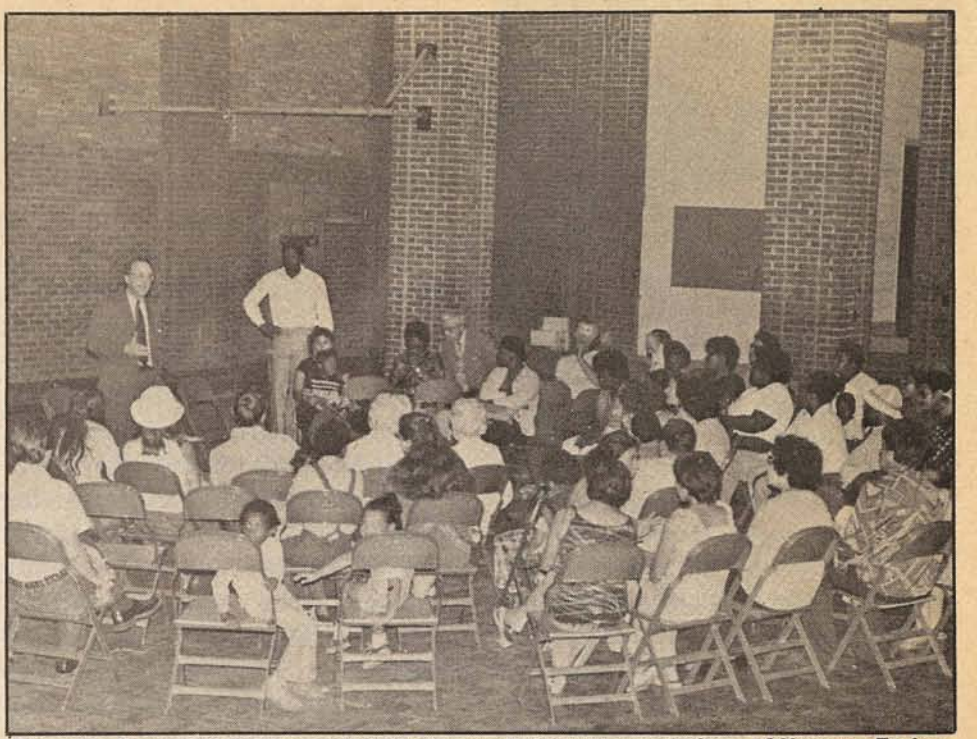
"We are involved in a five-year campaign to get what we want. Not just the issue of rent control, but the issue of poor people being involved in the whole political process."

—Bob Cheeks



UPTOWN – EAST OF BROADWAY

Fighting in the Final Stages



Community residents present their demands to representatives of Uptown Federal Savings and Loan, who, under the name of Parkview Development, bought up 371 units in 18 buildings for between $6,000 and $7,000 each.

CHICAGO – The area between Cuneo Hospital (Montrose and Clarendon) and Weiss Hospital (Lawrence and Clarendon) was targeted by the city for redevelopment 15 years ago. Real estate deals and developments today are the final stages of that plan. After the slumlords are done milking, after the speculators are done trading and cutting their points out, after hundreds of units of low cost housing have been destroyed or abandoned, the final stage, when the neighborhood becomes "chic, swank and attractive" arrives.

Three dozen people crowded into the living room at 856 West Agatite to find out how they could use their families, their rent money, their anger, the Heart of Uptown Coalition and whatever they could put their hands on to stop the plan to route poor people east of Broadway in Uptown.

As they took their seats, a tape recording began to play while color slides of the area flashed across a screen. The message on the tape was short. "Several hundred apartments were destroyed at Wilson and Hazel before 1971, as the city began to erect a Board of Health clinic and a middle school. Sold to the community as needed programs, they were never anything more than the city's upfront investment in the total redevelopment package for the area east of Broadway. The city was not about to replace the old houses with new low-cost housing, barely 100 yards from the outer drive. The clinic and the middle school were built to remove 400 families from the immediate area and trigger private redevelopment for three to four blocks in every direction.

"Four blocks south of Wilson at Montrose and Clarendon, Cuneo Hospital moved west down Montrose and Agatite, and 150 units fell. The area between the clinic and the hospital became a feeding ground for fast-buck artists buying and selling real estate during the 1970s.

"By 1978, gentry and condo developers had begun to move in. They could grab a building for a fraction of its real value, sit on it, rehab it and eventually market it as a swank lakefront home.

"The building at 843 Windsor best describes the recent history of the whole area. In 1965, it was a six-flat, renting large apartments for $100 a month. By 1975 it was a 12-flat renting three and four room apartments for $170 a month. In 1980, it is six condominiums each selling for $50,000.

"The latest and largest redevelopment project in the area is owned by Uptown Federal Savings and Loan. Uptown Federal, under the

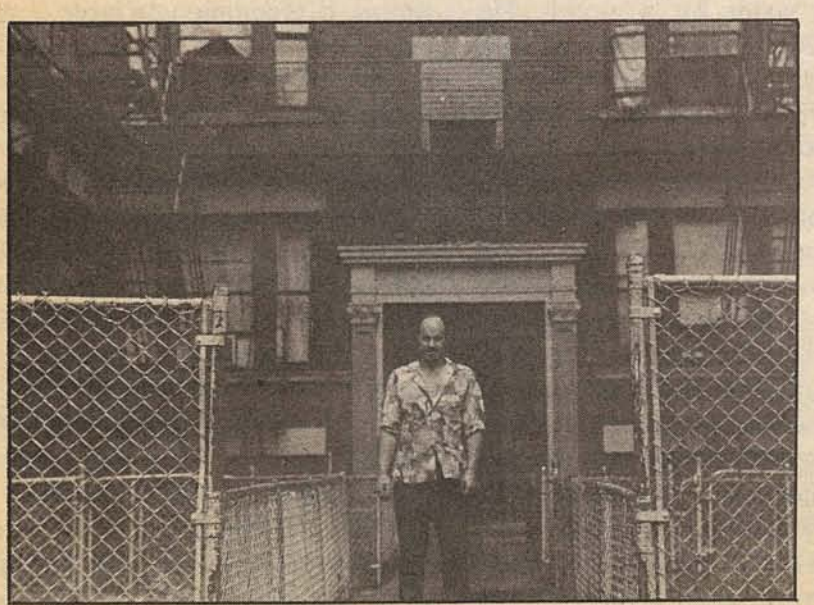
When the subject turned to Uptown Federal's Parkview Plan, the anger in the room grew louder.

name Parkview Development, bought up 371 units in 18 buildings for between $6,000 and $7,000 each. Rents in the rehabbed buildings will range from $450 to $600 a month. Condos will be sold for $80,000. Only 37 units will have two bedrooms and none will be larger than that. The project here will be federally assisted, meaning the developer will be using our tax money to drive us out of here."

When the subject turned to Uptown Federal's Parkview Plan, the anger in the room grew louder. Parkview may not be the only project in the tiny eight-block area but right now it's the largest and the most dangerous. Participants in the meeting decided to call Uptown Federal to a public meeting in ten days. At the second meeting, which will be held in a larger place to hold three times as many people, they will pose the questions they have regarding specifics of the development. At that time they will raise their demands. They are demanding that Uptown Federal respect the rights and integrity of the present community by ensuring: 1.) that only a minimum number of families be removed at any one time in order for the rehabilitation work to go ahead; 2.) that the buildings, many of which are unsecured and some partially burned-out and abandoned, be maintained at a decent level before rehabilitation starts; 3.) that the present plan, to have only 31 two-bedroom apartments be scrapped and new designs for apartments with more two bedrooms as well as three and four bedrooms to accomodate families living in the area now, be drawn; 4.) that tenants presently living in the buildings slated for rehab get first priority for moving into apartments after their completion. Before the meeting was over two people pointed out that a number of families in the target area have already been displaced one or two times by other redevelopment projects.

A few things are certain. Those who are in the fight to keep that community alive will bring that fight to the center of the Heart of Uptown Coalition's Convention later this month. As importantly, Uptown Federal's boost to redevelop east of Broadway just might provoke one of the angriest, rowdiest housing fights on the north side in the last few years. □

Kenmore Tenants Fight Displacement



Tenants on Kenmore and Sheridan Road in Uptown have been fighting displacement by Lincoln Park developer Dan Drew and his construction company since last spring. Drew claims control of almost one dozen buildings, over 200 apartments, in the area.

Tenants in the Drew buildings include families who have lived in Uptown more than 20 years. A woman who lives at 4017 Kenmore explains what happened after a fire in the building last February. "After the fire, he never did a thing either. After the fire, they knocked out the whole side of the wall. He said he'd fix it up but he never did. I fell down the back stairs and he did nothing about that either. I moved into another apartment in the building and three days later the ceiling fell in."

The tenants may soon file a suit against Drew and ask the judge to appoint a receiver to collect the rents and fix the buildings. Mike Wheatley, 4140 Kenmore, told KEEP STRONG, "I've been living here about a year with my three kids in five rooms. They took the locks off the doors, there's bare wall sockets, no linoleum on the floor. We had a huge hole in my floor for four or five months. My kids kept falling in. He kept promising to fix everything up but never did. Drew doesn't want to talk to me. He knows we'll fight. We can't go nowhere. We're poor. Anything I could do to get the place fixed up for my family, I'll do it."

First Chicago To Gentrify Ashland/Montrose

CHICAGO – A recent land grab by private developers, for close to a quarter of a million dollars, will push rents on Ashland between Montrose and Wilson from $190 a month to nearly $700 by 1982. The project, known as the North Ashland Apartments, is being financed by Crossroads Development Corporation. Tenants who live in the five-courtyard buildings, from 4400 to 4600 Ashland, are about to be forced out when the multimillion dollar, federally subsidized rehab project begins in two months.

Last year the city of Chicago approved Community Development funds and Section 8 money to the project. The plan calls for rehabilitation of 120 units primarily into one-bedroom apartments, where rents will start at $445. A four-bedroom apartment will cost $680 a month. In addition to Section 8 and money from the city's 50/50 rehab program, the developers will get a $5.3 million loan from First National Realty (the First National Bank's real estate corporation), a short-term construction loan from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and an FHA mortgage.

Darlene Gonzales, mother of three children and recently laid off from her job, lives at 4400 Ashland and describes the deplorable conditions in the building.

"They're getting the biggest apartments on the block and making them into subsidized housing. Mine is one of the buildings that was sold. The owner is Bernard Elzner of Lake Forest. We didn't have hot water for a month. He owes $1200 on the gas bill and didn't pay it. So they turned off the hot water for a month. We had to take a bath by heating water on top of the stove." Elzner also owes a $1900 water bill which he has refused to pay.

Darlene Gonzales of 4400 Ashland— "We had to take a bath by heating water on the stove."

Each of the five buildings in the Crossroads Development Project is reported to be owned by a different slumlord. All are in building court, with numerous violations. Tenants at 4400 Ashland took pictures and documented all the conditions:rat holes, fallen ceilings, cracked stairs, uncollected garbage. When the hot water went off, they called Channel 2 News who came out to do a story on the building.

After the TV publicity, city inspectors came out and ordered the building placed in criminal housing court. More than 50 tenants at 4400 Ashland signed a petition demanding that Elzner make repairs and pay the gas bill. Many began to withhold their rent. But when the tenants went down to building court to present their case, the judge told Darlene Gonzales and other tenants to be out in 20 days.

Betty Kaye, another resident at 4400 Ashland, angrily describes the intimidation that Elzner forced on tenants. "Here's how he treated the Mexican families. They don't understand English too well so he goes in and buffaloes them around. Mothers with babies, pregnant women, elderly and handicapped ladies, he won't fix nothing here. I'd like to see him take his medicine. He ought to be sitting in jail and get a piece of what the people are suffering."

By looking at the Crossroads plan it is clear that few families who live at 4400 Ashland and the other buildings will be eligible for the Section 8 apartments. Out of 120 units only 18 will have three or four bedrooms to accommodate large families. According to the developers, 20 percent of the units will go for the full market value, ranging from $445 to $680 a month.

Darlene Gonzales and her neighbors are growing angry about the evictions and what the new project means. "If they're going to do this development and really make low-income apartments I think they should let us stay here. I'm only living on my working income and I'm laid off now. They should leave the people in the building, make it low-income and fix up the apartments. People in the building are good tenants, very nice people, everybody's family."□

Keep Strong Interview

Loretta Adrahtas **came to Chicago from Texas 25 years ago, worked as a waitress for 50 cents an hour and moved to Uptown. She's always been a woman with two jobs – raising eight children and working to support them. Today she is one of CTA's women ticket agents. "It wasn't easy – it was something I had to do – my responsibility."**

LORETTA: "Well, I came to Chicago about 25 years ago. I started working as a waitress and I had small children at the time. It was quite hard, by the time you pay for a babysitter and if you get sick, of course, they get rid of you right away. Plus, you mostly depend on tips. At that time the pay was about 50¢ an hour if you were lucky. So for quite a few years I did this. I had eight children to raise.

"I came here from Austin, Texas. It was quite a change, because when I came here there was snow all the way up to the windows all the time and we weren't used to that. It was very hard. I came here because of my husband. Unfortunately, he wasn't too well and I was forced to raise all of my children alone. He came with me here, but didn't stay long because he was too ill."

KEEP STRONG: What were the ages of the children?

LORETTA: "Well, at that time they were stepping stairs, nine on down. So, as I said, I worked as a waitress for a good many years and then I decided, well since I have to go through this career of supporting, plus raising the children, which is actually two jobs, I decided I should go into something different besides waitress work because there are no benefits or anything.

"I had friends that watched the children and then as the older children got older, they watched the smaller children. That's one thing that saved me. I kind of had two sets of kids; the older ones and then the small ones. So it was quite a struggle, but I finally got a job with the Chicago Transit Authority and I've been with them for 11 years. It's been very satisfactory but it hasn't been easy.

"I started out working nights because the children were small and all and the older ones could stay with them at night and I'd be home in the day with them. I used to sleep in shifts. Come home in the morning and try to get some sleep. It's hard to get your proper rest when I worked as a waitress. I worked at night also so I kind of got into that habit. It's been a struggle, but you have to be strong and it was just something I had to do; it was my responsibility."

KEEP STRONG: Tell me about the job.

LORETTA: "It's hard to get a job with the CTA because they have such a waiting list of people trying to get on. It was that way 11 years ago and now too. I had no problem once I got on the job, but it was hard to get hired because of the waiting list. They always hired wo-

"I think if women have to work — if they can, they're better off getting into a job with a union and a little security instead of wasting their time on a job with no benefits."

men, but before, they wouldn't hire them for the night shift plus they wouldn't hire married women. I guess that was about 15 years ago. Before I started, they had those rules. In fact, we had a couple of agents that are now retired that never got married because of those rules. Like they used to do on the airlines with the stewardesses because it's a high risk job. You're sitting there handling money and you never know."

KEEP STRONG: Are you satisfied with your pay scale and your benefits?

LORETTA: "I can't complain because at this point, with the high inflation and all, the company's doing all they can. We didn't get our cost-of-living as much as we were supposed to but for myself (and a lot of them don't agree with it) I'd rather have them not raise the tares and be satisfied. With the taxes the way they are, they would just take more out anyway.

KEEP STRONG: Is there anything more you would like to say about the job or women working and their problems or working conditions?

LORETTA: "I think if women have to work—if they can—they're better off getting into a job with a union and a little security instead of wasting their time on a job with no benefits. Also, there are always courses you can take now to further your education for little or nothing that would benefit someone that didn't have much training. That's what I would have done if I didn't happen to get into this job. I would have gone back to school, studying or something.

KEEP STRONG: Did you live in Uptown when you came to Chicago?

LORETTA: "I lived in Uptown for a good many years. I really enjoyed it over there. I never had any trouble. We always lived in nice apartments. It's been about ten years ago. Now it's bad that they have so many fires and try to get people out. That's bad but I lived there before that started to happen."

KEEP STRONG: Did you ever think about moving back to Texas?

LORETTA: "I thought about it a few years ago, but they don't recognize women at all down there for working. They pay very little. You just can't live on what they pay."

KEEP STRONG: I read that places like Houston are booming. There is a lot of work there.

LORETTA: "For men, if they have a trade. It's a little cheaper living conditions as far as the rent goes. The food is higher priced; the meat and the milk, the vegetable prices might be a little less. You have to have a car down there, you can't get around without one and the price of gas has gone up so high.

Loretta's family — Bottom row: Baby Peter, Buddy, Diana, Linda; Top row: Glen, Michael, Shelley.

KEEP STRONG: You said your children that are in school now are doing pretty good and I can tell from your attitude, Loretta, that you've impressed upon them the idea that they have to learn and get an education to survive in today's world.

LORETTA: "Well, I think it's very important nowadays if you can't finish school to get into a trade. There are so many courses you can take now and that school over on Wilson [Truman] is very good. It's very reasonable and there is no age discrimination. You can be as young or as old as you want."

KEEP STRONG: Thank you.□

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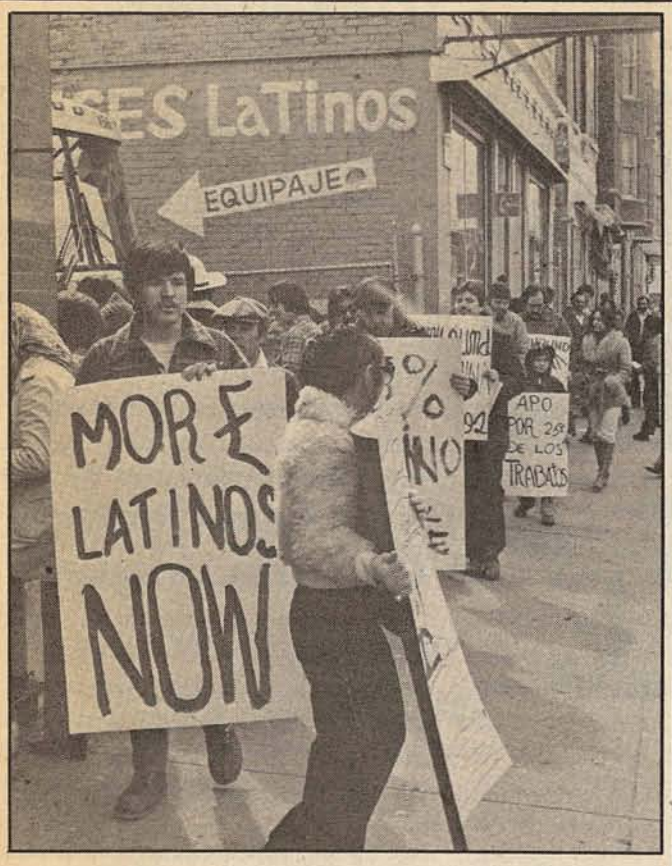


Greyhound Bus On The Spot

With unemployment hitting 30 percent in some Chicago communities, the Association for Workers (APO) Rights, an organization of Latino workers, carried the cause to Greyhound Bus Company once again on Saturday, July 26.

Demanding jobs and job opportunities from one of the nation's largest transportation companies, APO has pointed to the fact that Greyhound employs only one Latino among its thousands of drivers.

The July demonstration is another step in their campaign to force Greyhound to open its hiring policies to the Latino community – a major portion of Chicago's workforce.

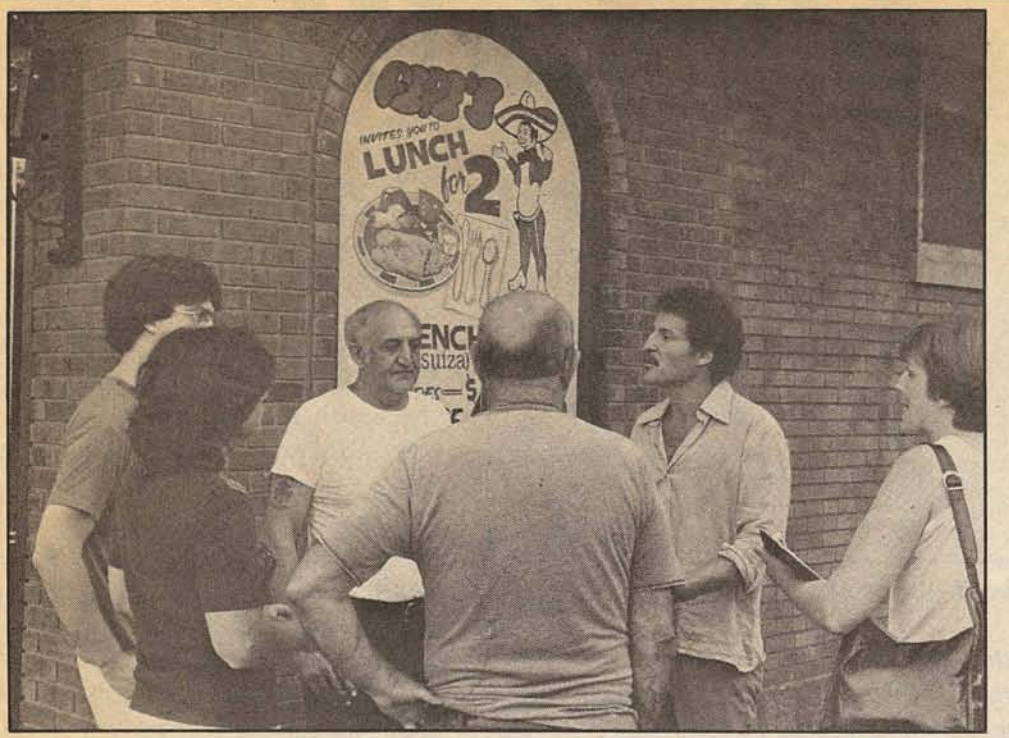
Stewart-Warner

Workers at Stewart-Warner last year threw out IBEW Local 1031 in favor of United Workers Association (UWA). Neil Burke (above, left), president of the UWA, explained why the independent union recently affiliated with the United Electrical Workers (UE).

"We checked a whole bunch of unions, and we also checked the UE. When we evaluated plants of similar size in our industry, the UE had the best contracts. We've found that UE is serious in organizing. You can learn more and get what the workers really deserve with the rank and file controlling the union.

"Now the auto workers are playing around in the shop, trying to take over the union from the UE. The auto workers go on the basis that they have these big three, the people start believing that suddenly you're going to get this Pension, this Big Raise, this Insurance. A couple of smaller Stewart-Warner plants went independent and then they went for the auto workers. Now they're complaining that they got the same thing they had with 1031.

"If the board (National Labor Relations Board) determines there's enough eligible cards, they have to hold an election, and we can't negotiate with the company. It may not take us past December 1st (when the contract expires) but if you go in front of the company with only 30 days to organize for negotiations, you're a fool to do it that way."



North Lakeview Residents Fight Traffic Parking Problems

Community residents at Byron and Ashland have begun to work together to solve some of the parking and traffic problems in their neighborhood. Peggy Harris, spokesperson for the group explains, "Most of us on the block were fed up with the situation. We couldn't find parking spaces. Pepe's Tacos is on the corner of Ashland and Byron. They don't have any parking for their customers. So people park in front of our houses. The street is always filled with trash. We got together a petition directed at Pepe's; 95 percent of the people on the block signed it. We called a meeting. At the meeting we decided to get Bert Weiman Ford to lease some space to Pepe's for parking. We also agreed to fight for making Byron one-way from Ravenswood to Ashland. We need a stop sign at Marshfield. Another petition directed at Alderman Axelrod (46) and Schulter (47) will be circulating soon, along with a questionnaire for people in the area.

"Support for this drive is overwhelming. By October 1, we hope to have a one-way street, a new stop sign and better parking for neighborhood residents."

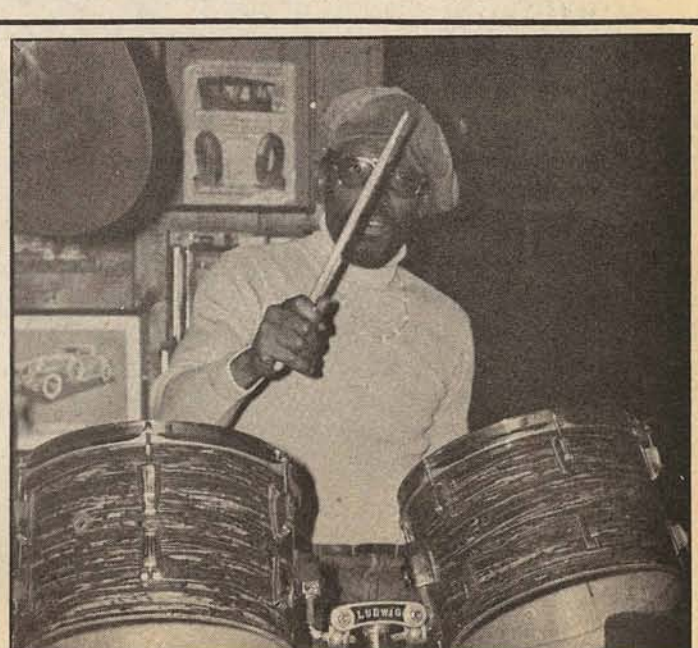
In Memoriam
May 28, 1938 — June 28, 1980

Anthony Gooden, long time Uptown resident fell to his death June 28, 1980 when the bannister on the third floor back porch collapsed at 4426 N. Clifton.

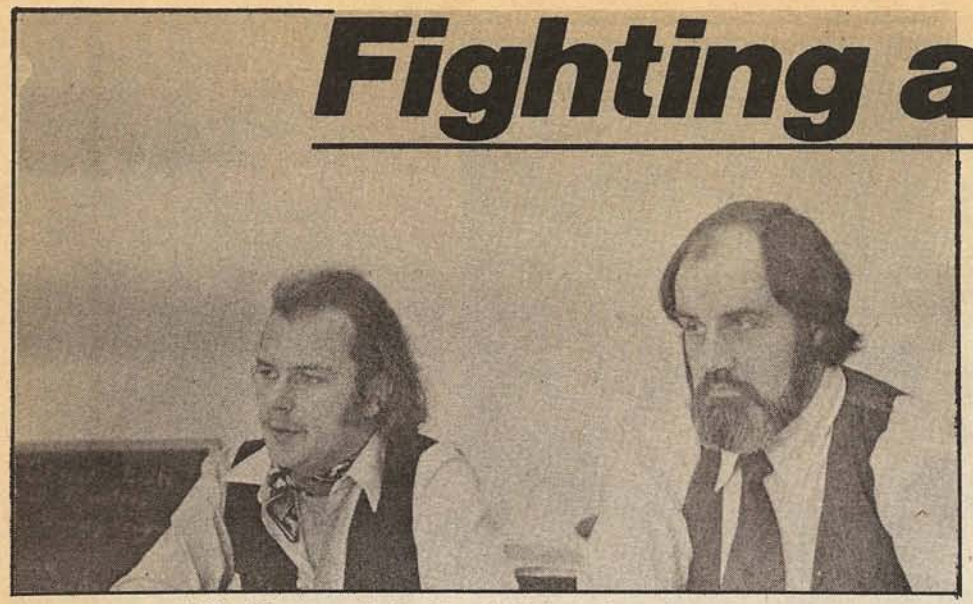
He was a drummer by profession, playing with Mighty Joe Young, and for the last few years with the Son Seals Band.

He left behind a family of four — his wife, Marilyn, Evanne, age 11, Yolanda, age 9 and Charles, age 5.

KEEP STRONG extends sympathy to his family, friends and the community as a whole for the loss.



Fighting a War....



Mike Morgan — left — South African Army Deserter..

In mid-June, thousands of South African Blacks marked the fourth anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Uprising with strikes against U.S. automobile companies and demonstrations against apartheid. Apartheid is the South African government's official system of racial separation where the country's White minority, two million people, maintains control over the country's majority, 17.4 million Black people.

Much of the control is maintained by an army of close to a quarter of a million active soldiers, with twice that number in reserve. The South African Defense Force occupies neighboring Namibia (South West Africa) and recently invaded Angola for the second time in the last five years.

Mike Morgan served in the South African army for one year, but deserted after serving in Namibia. Since 1978, he has resided in New York, working with other South African war resisters, in the South African Miliary Refugee Aid Fund.

"I was drafted into an infantry battalion and trained as a radio operator. I was sent up to Namibia, where South Africa has an occupying force of about 70,000 troops to combat SWAPO (South West African Peoples Organization). I was sent into an area called the Cabrivi Strip which is very close to the Zambian-Angolan border. During the five months I was there, my unit was involved in a number of follow-up raids into Angola and into Zambia. Villages in Angolan and Zambian territory were attacked by South African invasion forces, and civilians were killed and tortured.

The reason why the draft has returned is pretty clear. You don't build an army to protect your borders. You build an army because you need to go somewhere.

"It was very difficult for the South African army to penetrate SWAPO because the people of Namibia were all involved in the struggle against South Africa. When a village was raided or a suspect was taken, that person was subjected to torture and interrogation by the South Africans. Personally, I felt very dehumanized by that experience. I had been taught my whole life, especially in the army, that I was being sent there to stop the terrorism taking place in Namibia. I realized once I arrived that the role of terrorist was not being played by the Namibian people and in particular SWAPO, but was being played by the South African army. The only option for me was to no longer become a part of that.

"It's safe to say that over the last three years at least 10,000 White South Africans have resisted the draft. Just over 2,000 have been caught by the military police and are serving prison sentences, which are a maximum of two years. But it's dependent upon whether the person then wishes to do military service. If you don't, you go back to prison for another two years. Anyone who stands by their conscience might serve a life sentence.

"Within the last year there has been a significant rise in the amount of resistance taking place within the ranks of the military. In October, 1979, there was a mass desertion from an army base in Upington and they listed their complaints. One complaint was that border duty was too strenuous and too long. They also questioned why they should actually be in Namibia. One hundred and eleven of the 300 soldiers who deserted have been caught, court-marshalled, given suspended sentences, and were immediately sent up to the battle zone in northern Namibia.

"Another factor in the growing resistance within the army is the way in which Zimbabwe became independent. South Africans were lead to believe Mugabe was 'devil incarnate.' But they hold a free and fair election and he wins. So there are questions being asked, 'Is not the

On the Wrong Side

same thing true with SWAPO in Namibia?'

"Figures released in this country about the recent strikes and demonstrations in Johannesburg, Capetown and Port Elizabeth are very misleading. During the initial riots, when the police first opened fire, and the chief of police of Johannesburg gave the order to 'shoot to kill' the death toll within two days was very close to one hundred. We heard this from South African newspapermen within South Africa. However, the South Africans then came out with official figures that 37 people had been killed. Since then the New York Times, the Washington Post and all those of that caliber have been publishing that figure.

The places where the striking workers seem to be the most militant are at the U.S. multinational corporations, the U.S. automobile plants, Ford, General Motors and Volkswagen. It's also interesting to see how the state dealt with the workers uprising, that they used the army to quell the automobile workers. That fits hand and glove with the contingency plan which General Motors brought out a number of years ago, which explained how General Motors would collaborate with that state and the defense force in terms of workers uprisings.

"There must be a certain awareness that is growing in the minds of Whites to the question, 'why should all this violence be taking place and why should I be forced to shoot people?' People learned some lessons from Soweto. They may have learned the wrong lessons, but they know that Soweto was something that the rest of the world condemned. People are also aware of the effects on the Black community and the effects on the anger that was instilled. That can play a significant role in getting White people to understand the role that they are presently playing as opposed to the role that they could play by not going along with the battle plans.

"But there is also the negative way of looking at it, the retreat further into the lagar, the retreat further into the den. Because their homes and property are being threatened, a lot of them will fight that much harder because they are wrapped and bound to racism and apartheid. It's the way they see their survival.

"The reason why the draft has returned, for the U.S., is pretty clear. You don't build an army to protect your borders. You build an army because you need to go somewhere. That's how the United States has always seen it. When you look at the possible areas for U.S. intervention there's Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Central America and there is indeed Southern Africa.

"For young people in the United States facing the draft, I can only tell them what we did in South Africa. For us the war was very real. We had to go there and we had to fight a war. People in this country, they might not see a war. They might just see it as part of their patriotic duty to register. But don't be surprised when you are told to pack your bags and go somewhere and have to experience the horror of fighting a war and the horror of actually fighting a war and being on the wrong side. It's even worse."□

"But don't be surprised when you are told to pack your bags and go somewhere and have to experience the horror of fighting a war and the horror of actually fighting a war and being on the wrong side."

JOHNNY

"The Fight of the Century"

by Johnny Lira

The first full hour in Montreal was madness, and it was madness to the end. Scrambling around looking for a way to get in the Duran-Leonard match. And time went on; time closing in on the most watched event in who knows, maybe time itself!

My friends, Steve Corbo, Marvo DeFiore and yours truly, Johnny, the next Lightweight Champ, Lira had had it. Enough was enough! We are from CHICAGO. You know, Windy City, mean streets USA. No one or anything was going to stop us from sitting ringside at this fight. Oh yeah, I forgot to say we came without buying any tickets. Big-time promoter Bob Arum didn't invite us! Big-time promoter Don King didn't invite us! We didn't know anybody and never was in Montreal in our lives. Didn't speak no French. But this stop us? No! No! Ha Ha Ha! I'm writing this story from ringside and when I say ringside, I mean RINGSIDE.

The fight's leading up to World War III. They were real good appetizers. Fighter Hart from Canada put another man in the hospital. Number two in two months. Next fight saw two warriors who had wins over each other. Their fight ended in an action packed draw. Melo and Marcotte were their names.

And now at last, it's coming, it's here! The fight the whole wide world and even heaven has been waiting for—Duran-Leonard.

Now show time happens to belong to Roger Leonard, Ray's older brother and he's doing a fine job. A close fight, Roger and Clyde Gray, Canada's champ. The fight results with Roger Leonard winner.

And now at last, it's coming, it's here! The fight the whole wide world and even heaven has been waiting for—Duran-Leonard.

Duran didn't let Leonard do what he wanted to do. He made Leonard fight his (Duran's) fight instead of his own.

Inside boxing (Duran's style) is part of boxing. It was up to Leonard to keep away from Duran. Duran would move inside, punch then clinch. He got so close to Leonard. They were head to head for much of the fight. When you're a smaller man [Duran's 5'7", Leonard's 5'10"] you're supposed to dig your head into the other man's chest. Duran did his job well.

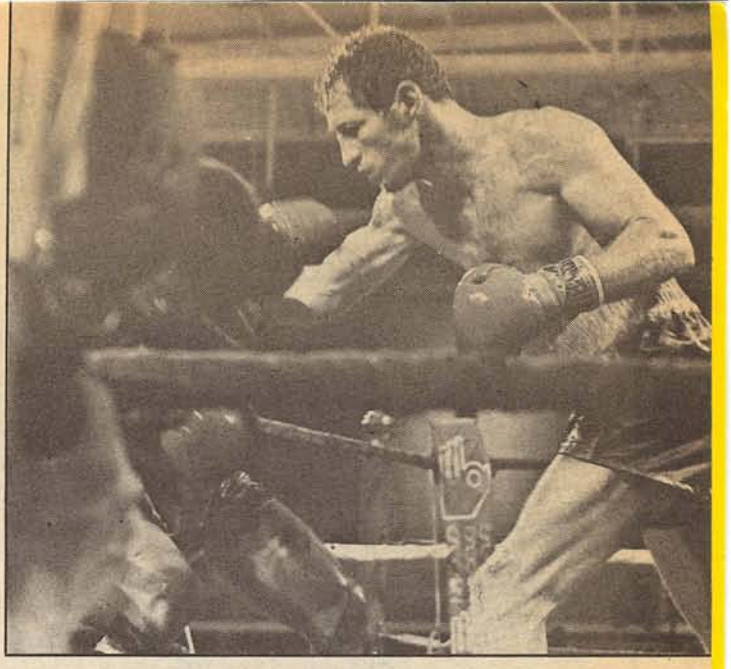
I think Duran might have been on edge more and in slightly better shape. He was hungrier. He wanted it and nothing was going to stop him from getting it.

Leonard had it [the championship], was content to hold on to it and probably because of that content, lost it.□

Love,

Johnny Lira

LIRA



Lira Decisions Acosta
Victory Sets Tone for Comeback

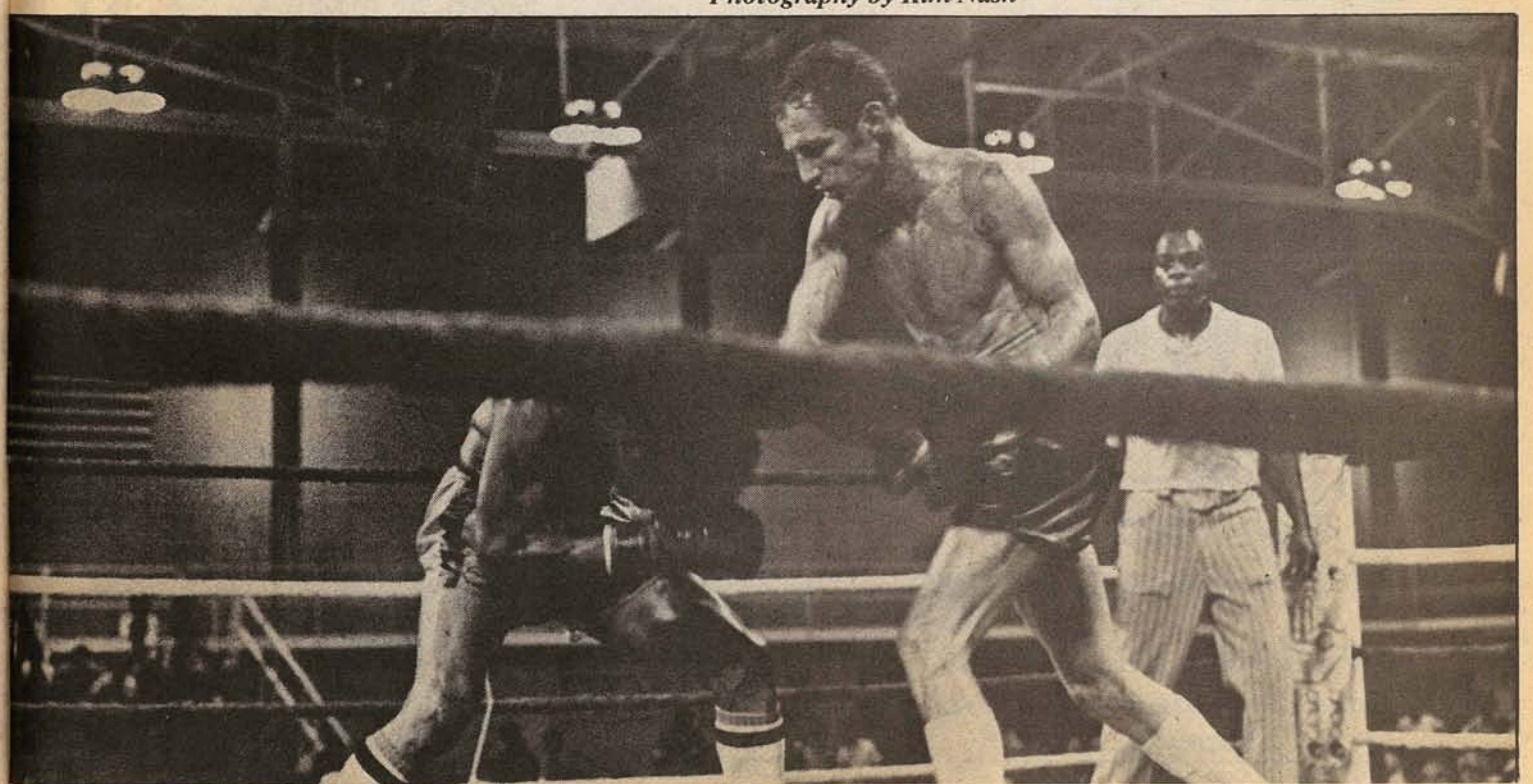
CHICAGO – Johnny Lira, fighting for the first time since his loss to Ernesto España last July, pounded Pedro Acosta for ten rounds earlier this month.

Lira, both a trainer and a fighter, has spent much of the last year working with other fighters, amateur and professional. His prize trainee is James "Quick" Tillis, now ranked number eight among World Boxing Council heavyweights.

But this was a night for Lira the fighter. By the sixth round, he had opened a cut above Acosta's right eye. The blood ran for the next four rounds as Lira gained steam in rounds eight, nine and ten. Acosta, with a 16-1 record going into the fight, showed heart as he fought back and continued to score points in the late rounds.

In the end, both judges and the referee scored Lira ahead of Acosta and awarded Johnny the decision. □

Photography by Kim Nash



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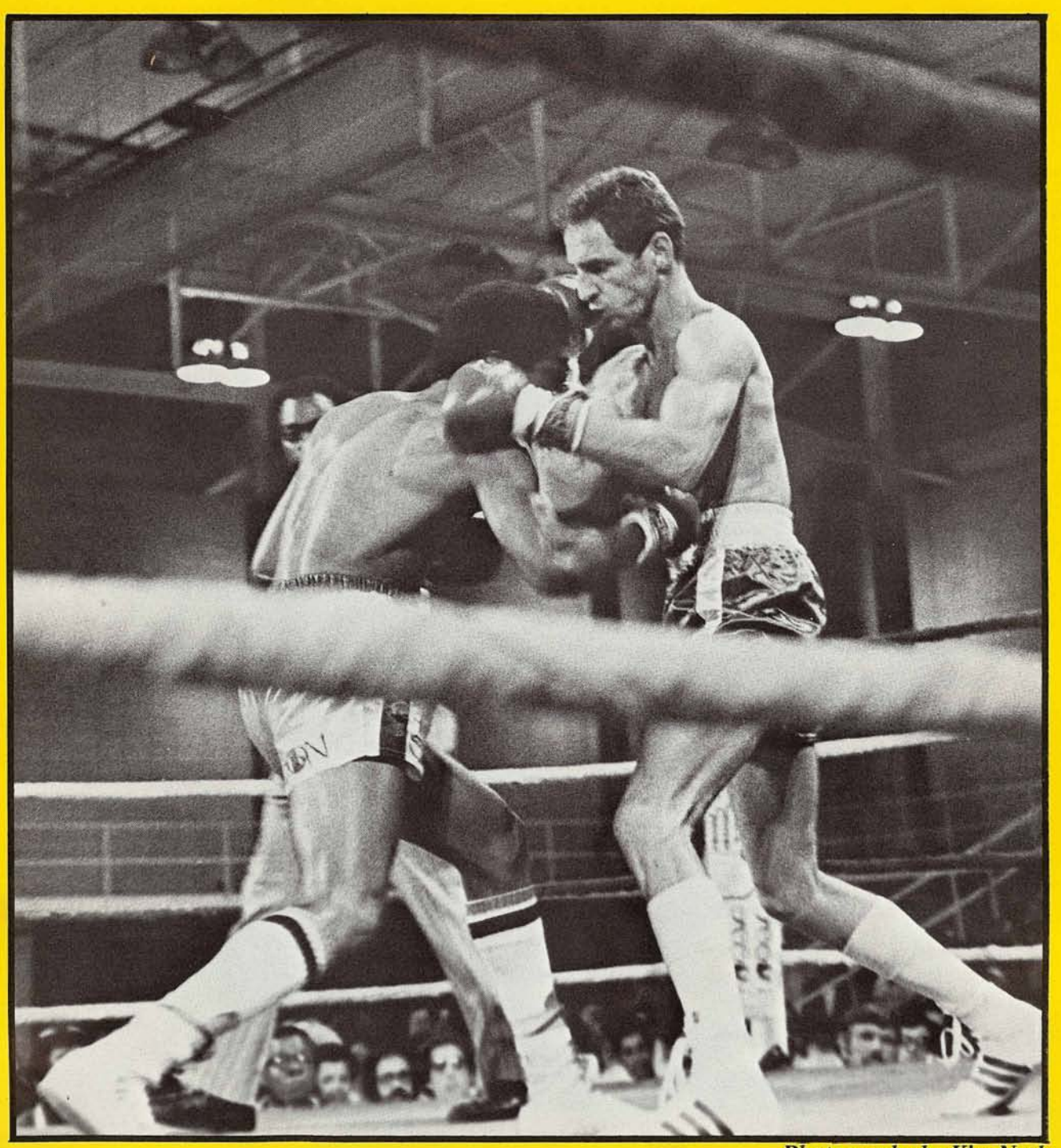

Photography by Kim Nash

JOHNNY LIRA

Decisions

PEDRO ACOSTA

Thursday, July 10, 1980

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD
UNFURNISHED
Heart of Uptown Coalition
MEMBERSHIP CONVENTION
August 17-23, 1980